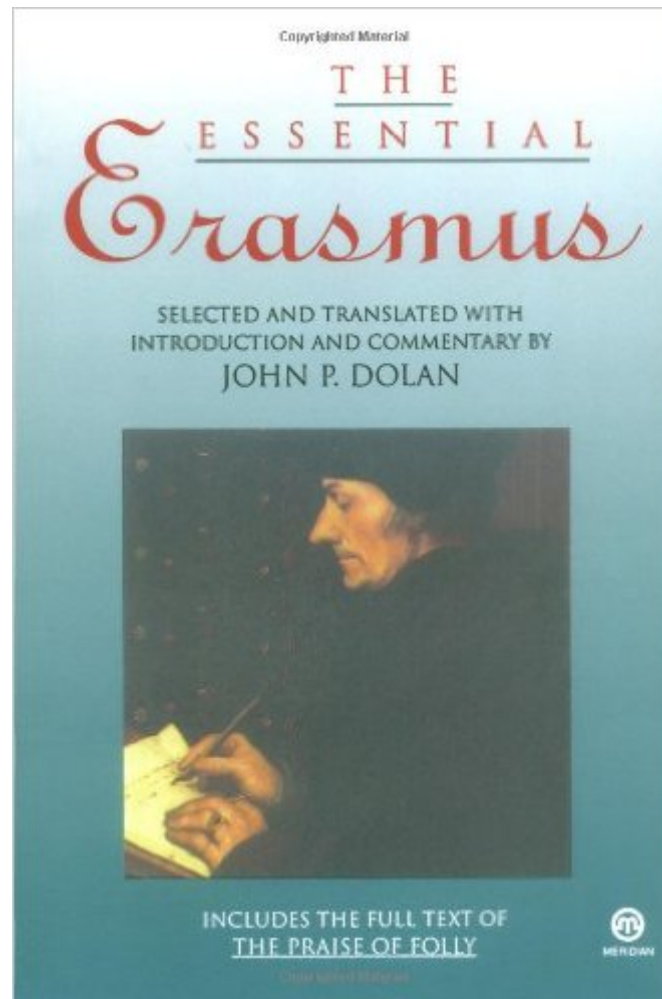


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The Essential Erasmus: Includes The Full Text Of The Praise Of Folly (Essentials)



Synopsis

In his own day a center of controversy, in the four hundred years since his death known too often solely as an apostle of mockery and irreverence, Erasmus can be seen today in a new light; as a humanist whose concern is at once contemporary and Christian. The Essential Erasmus is the first single volume in English to show the full spectrum of this Renaissance man's thought, which is no less profound because it is expressed with the grace, wit, and ironic detachment only a great writer can achieve. Contains the full text of In Praise of Folly

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Handbook for the Militant Christian. Sounds offputting doesn't it? A call to arms to defeat some faceless infidel, a war cry to wage against the world? In a word, no. In the last chapter, Erasmus makes no bones that we are to forgive those who harm us and love those who would do us ill. We should look to the Supreme Example, Christ, who died for a world that didn't accept Him, and in so doing gained the keys to the Kingdom. Revenge only deepens hurt and portends disaster, Erasmus lets us know on a more practical level. In seeking recompense for errors committed against us, we ironically only create more trouble for ourselves and not our 'enemy'. In these words, I have not found a better voice that blends the best Pagan Wisdom with the Truth of the Revealed Word. So who is the enemy? Earlier in the book, Erasmus lets us know it is the flesh. We have both an inner and outer man. The outer, connected to the world and all its trappings, the possibilities of gluttony, drunkenness and lustful pursuits which only end in death, and that inner man, which is connected to things Spiritual, and Christ utmost. Clearly, as St. Paul stated, who is oft quoted here by the author,

the flesh must be crucified. We must recognize another irony. That the more we deny the flesh, the more we flourish Spiritually. Thoughts are given on how to flee temptation, where we are urged to reign in Vanity, Pride in order to live a simple, humble, Christian life. Seneca wrote letters to a Stoic. Erasmus wrote this manual for a boy just being initiated into manhood. What a resplendent re-capitulation of the Old World Wisdom during the Renaissance where the knowledges of Plato, Origen and Augustine could once again be remembered and carried forward to us here in the postmodern world. A gem.

it doesn't have much to say about the "Colloquies"

I really like Erasmus, and after studying him in a reformation class I decided to look for a collection of his writings, and this is a nice, cheap copy. Erasmus is a difficult person to analyze and figure out what exactly he is after. His writings can be confusing at times and one may sometimes wonder the applicability of some of his words for today; of course, such was very significant in the time period in which they were composed. Though their bearing may not have as much salient application to today's world, I think it is still very relevant, especially when considered with the proper perspective; if the writings themselves are not directly relevant, surely the motivation for his writings are. One would be wise to analyze their self, the modern church, and the modern world in light of his ideas and consider what he would propose did he live today.

Arrived on time and as expected.

great

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