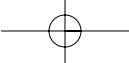
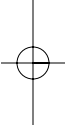
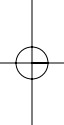


First Principles



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BASICS OF BIBLICAL FAITH

David E. Crosby



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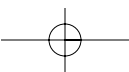
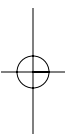
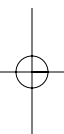
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“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

1 Corinthians 15:3 NASB



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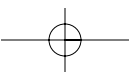
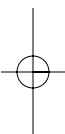
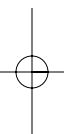
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Acknowledgments

I judge the following subjects to be first principles for the follower of Jesus Christ as he relates to the church and to the lost world. They are “first” in that they precede all other doctrinal formulations. They are also “first” in that they are of the greatest importance for living a faithful Christian life.

No pastor can identify all of the influences that have shaped his understanding of the Christian life through many years of ministry. I do want to acknowledge two of the most important influences in my life.

First, I am greatly indebted to my family, particularly my father, for their contribution to my thinking about God. I believe that the spiritual and biblical foundations of my life were laid in my boyhood.

Second, I am in debt to the many professors through the years who have taught me God’s Word both at Baylor University and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Fisher H. Humphreys helped me with systematic theology as much as anyone, and I recommend his book *Thinking About God*.

Let me issue a disclaimer. These are the thoughts of a learner, a disciple. This is not a perfect or infallible script. I trust that my personal study of the Bible will continue to shape and refine my theology, that the next edition of *First Principles* will have changes that reflect my personal growth.

Allow this study to be a stimulus for further personal

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investigation of the Book of Books, our only guide
for faith and practice.

Introduction

Jesus Christ is the center of my spiritual and intellectual universe. At least, I want him to be the center, and I am working toward that configuration of my world. I believe what the author of the book of Hebrews says in his prologue:

“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word” (Hebrews 1:1-3).

The person and work of Christ should be the center of any book about first principles. So I am a little uncomfortable with the fact that my thinking about God as Creator precedes the chapter on Jesus as Savior in this book. I left this order alone, however, because it is a traditional order in the history of systematic theology. I also retained this order with the hope and intention that Jesus as Lord and Christ would dominate every thought and every page of this book.

The reader should be centered in Jesus Christ. Our thinking is not Christian until Christ himself is the object of our desire and the goal of our meditations. If Jesus is the beginning and end of everything, as the Apostle John declared emphatically (Revelation

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21:6), then he should certainly be the beginning and end of our personal, spiritual world.

My goal in writing this small text is to whet your appetite for more of the Word of God, written and living. You will find untarnished truth, not in my feeble efforts, but in the inspired and infallible Word of God.

What an adventure living for Jesus has been every day! Nothing so quickens the pulse and lifts the head as following the Savior wherever he may lead. This is true not only in journeys of the body, but especially in journeys of the soul. So take a step forward, and keep looking up!

First Principles