



BOOK REVIEW

The Lost Message of Jesus

By Steve Chalk and Alan Mann
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An excellent read; Steve Chalk brings his engaging sermon style to the written page.

Chalk, through anecdote and story, asks some serious questions of the Church and about two thousand years of Christian history. Have we, he asks, lost the message of Jesus? For too long, he asserts, we have been using a 'Sin and Redemption' model, 'behave, believe, and belong,' whereas Jesus suggests an alternative, 'belong, believe, and behave,' a model of open acceptance. We make a mistake, Chalk argues, to think of 'Christians' and 'Non-Christians' as opposed to all being on a journey but possibly being in very different places and maybe going in different directions. The example of Judas is given, as someone who, with everyone else, '.....shared some of Jesus' most intimate moments. He was one of the inner community of twelve right up to the last supper... but scratch beneath the surface and you soon discover he was heading away from Jesus.'¹ Though he was heading in the wrong direction, Jesus still welcomed him into his company. It was never a matter of how close you were to him but which direction you were travelling in.

This book is not at all a heavy theological read., yet it contains sufficient weight to challenge the reader into pausing to consider how we, today, should be engaging with a culture and society which are in a very different place to the one in which those of us who frequent our churches Sunday by Sunday belong.



¹ Pg 142

Neil Eldridge

