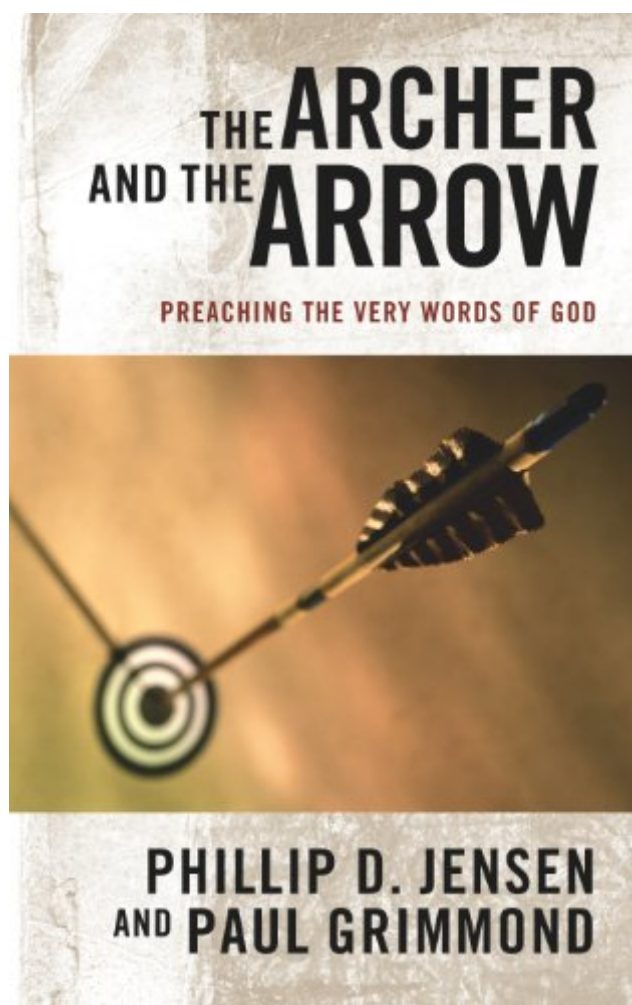


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The Archer And The Arrow



Synopsis

This book is about a sentence 40 years in the making: "My aim is to preach the gospel by prayerfully expounding the Bible to the people God has given me to love." (Phillip Jensen) Join Phillip Jensen and Paul Grimmond as they explore each phrase in this carefully wrought statement, and show not only why faithful, powerful, biblical preaching is so important, but how to go about it. Recommendation from William Taylor: "Preaching is the lifeblood of the local church. This is an outstanding book by one of the world's foremost preachers, and is essential reading for any would-be Bible teacher." (William Taylor, Rector, St Helen's Bishopsgate, London, UK). See the PDF download for other recommendations. Wondering how this book relates to The Trellis and the Vine? Read the answer here About the authors Phillip Jensen is an internationally renowned preacher and evangelist. He is the author of the well-known Two Ways to Live gospel presentation, as well as numerous books and Bible study materials, including Guidance and the Voice of God. He currently serves as Dean of Sydney at St Andrew's Cathedral. Phillip and his wife, Helen, have three children and a growing number of grandchildren. Paul Grimmond is a gifted and well-known Bible teacher, currently serving on the campus of the University of NSW. He is the author of Right Side Up, a book aimed at helping new Christians to understand the Christian life. Paul lives with his wife, Cathy, and their three children in Sydney's east.

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Customer Reviews

The Trellis and the Vine was 2009's surprise hit. Written by Collin Marshall and Tony Payne, the book described a ministry mind-shift that the authors assured the reader could change everything--everything related to ministry, that is. The book stood upon its simple metaphor of a trellis, an apparatus used to support something, and of a vine, the object that is supported by that trellis. The trellis referred to the administrative work within a church, those tasks that, though important, are not actually directly related to discipling people. Vine work, on the other hand, is those tasks of working with the vine, drawing people into the kingdom through evangelism and then training them to grow in their knowledge of God and their obedience to him. Though the book may not have been groundbreaking, it somehow managed to pull together a lot of ideas and collect them all within this simple metaphor. It was a powerful and effective combination and it sold very well. Even better, it impacted pastors and those engaged in gospel work, helping them better understand the task the Lord has given them. The follow-up to The Trellis and the Vine is called The Archer and the Arrow. While it comes from Matthias Media, the same publisher, it is written by different authors: Phillip Jensen and Paul Grimmond. Though the volume is co-authored, its purpose is primarily to make Jensen's "wisdom about preaching available to a wider audience--wisdom acquired over almost four decades of faithful biblical ministry." I do not know if the book was conceived as a follow-up to The Trellis and the Vine or not, but regardless, it works as a sequel. Where the first book focused on ministry through a wide lens, the second focuses on the essential heart of ministry--the preaching of the gospel.

How good is it that Phillip Jensen, who has been called "a once in a lifetime preacher" should put together his thoughts on preaching so that others may benefit? In this book, you get Phillip Jensen's ideas, skilfully organised by Paul Grimmond, one of Jensen's admirers and followers. Grimmond is well-placed to do this, because he has listened to Jensen speak for more than 20 years and has put his principles into practice in his own speaking ministry. Tim Challies says that the image Jensen uses to depict preaching is too complicated and not one that people will be able to remember. He contrasts this with the simple, effective and memorable image of the trellis and the vine in Colin Marshall and Tony Payne's earlier companion volume to this one. He expects that image will be used by many to depict the administrative work in Christian ministry (trellis work) versus the task of

drawing God's people into his kingdom through evangelism (vine work). However in this book, the straightforward image used of an archer (the preacher) and his arrow (the sermon) is made more complex by Jensen's depiction of the arrow's head, shaft and feathers as illustrations of the elements of a sermon as message, exegesis and theology. But is it as hard to grasp as Challies makes out? I think that it is unpacked fairly clearly, and is a useful device for reminding us of all that is needed to create a successful message which challenges listeners to action. The most helpful aspect of the book is the definition of preaching which forms the backbone of its contents. In chapter two Jensen gives us the preacher's mission statement: My aim is to preach the gospel by prayerfully expounding the Bible to the people God has given me to love.

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