

book of the month *The Greener Grass Conspiracy* – Stephen Altrogge

Contentment is a universal problem for which Stephen Altrogge offers a great deal of help in *The Greener Grass Conspiracy*. In less than 140 pages, Altrogge discusses the awful sinfulness of discontentment, the purpose for which man was created, what the gospel has to do with contentment, contentment in suffering, heaven, and much more. While reading this book, I found myself laughing at Altrogge's witty, humorous writing style, while, at other times, I was cut deeply by his thoughts on sin and the gospel. This book offers encouragement, conviction, admonishment, and practical help for Christians who are fighting for contentment.

Though I do heartily recommend this book, the one caveat I will give is that readers should carefully discern the context of Altrogge's Scripture references since, at times, he does not seem to consider the human author's original audience (see pages 24 and 91 for examples of this, regarding his use of Isaiah 43:6-7 and the promises of God).

– Omri Miles

Heart-Shepherding Help

Each chapter ends with a "Stop-Think-Do" section. In these sections, Altrogge includes a few questions that require the reader to consider and/or interact with the content of that chapter in a way that is personally applicable. Rather than disregard these sections completely or attempt to answer every single question (there are 59 total), try doing one of the following:

1. Answer one question from each chapter (12 total) and prayerfully ask God to help you grow in the ways that the question intends.
2. After reading the book, answer all the questions from one chapter that was particularly helpful to you.
3. Pick a few chapters and do any number of the exercises that you think would be helpful.

Quotes from *The Greener Grass Conspiracy*

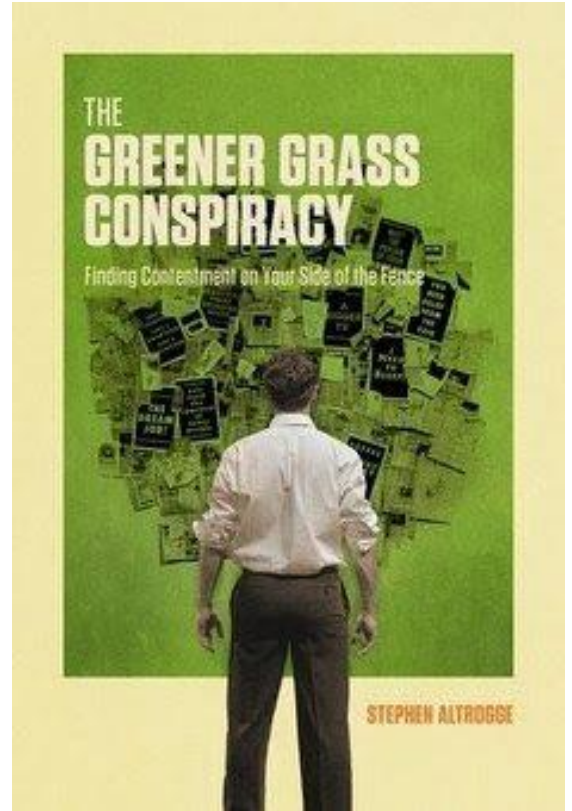
"When we seek to honor God by being content in prosperity and suffering, we're doing what we were made to do. We're glorifying God."

"True contentment joyfully embraces both prosperity and pain as from the hand of God."

"We don't experience a breeze or backache that hasn't first been ordained by God for our good and his glory."

"The discontented man complains because he isn't getting what God 'owes' him. The contented man is astonished that God would bless him for doing his duty."

"Complaining doesn't fare well in the soil of thankfulness, and the gospel should always propel us to deep gratitude."



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (about 4.5 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, the 6th – Sunday, the 12th

The Conspiracy – 4 pages
Why Am I So Unhappy? – 6 pages
I'm Not the Center of the Universe – 6 pages
So What Am I, A Monk? – 8 pages
I Worship My Television – 12 pages

Week 2: Monday, the 13th – Sunday, the 19th

The King's Madness – 12 pages
Bloody Contentment – 16 pages

Week 3: Monday, the 20th – Sunday, the 26th

Some People Have to Learn the Hard Way – 10 pages
In Search of the Secret – 16 pages
Eat the Meat and Die – 10 pages

Week 4: Monday, the 27th – Sunday, July 3rd

Count Your Blessings – Literally – 8 pages
The Furnace of Suffering – 10 pages
The End of Tears – 10 pages