



Grace First: Christian Mission and Prevenient Grace in John Wesley (Tyndale Studies in Wesleyan History and Theology)

Christopher Payk

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"This is the most thorough and missiologically sensitive study of John Wesley's doctrine of preventive grace to appear thus far . . . unprecedented in its scope."

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In this thorough and missiologically sensitive study of John Wesley's doctrine of preventive grace, Chris Payk explores what John Wesley meant and intended by the term "preventive grace." Tracing the antecedents and sources of Wesley's teaching on preventive grace more thoroughly than does any prior work, Payk shows that preventive grace is not a Wesleyan invention; it has long roots in the history of Christian doctrine. However, he also shows that Wesley added nuances and dimensions that have considerable relevance for the church's life and mission today. Payk then creatively combines his historical-doctrinal analysis with a helpful discussion on how this bears strategically and theologically on the church's mission in the twenty-first century.

Payk shows that the doctrine of God's infinite graciousness is not a dusty doctrine from the past but a truth of wide relevance today as the gospel of Jesus Christ confronts a vast and varied scene of global religions and cultures. Here is an affirmation of God's grace that is biblical and evangelical, avoiding human hubris on one side and a narrow theistic determinism on the other. The book further expands our appreciation of the continuing relevance of John Wesley's life, witness, and thought.

Christopher Payk is an ordained minister with the Free Methodist Church in Canada. He is currently serving on the pastoral team at Mucha Free Methodist Church in Taipei, Taiwan, where he has lived for the last five years.

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