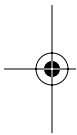


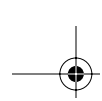
Foreword

There are books that look back, reminding us of a world that is past. There are others that are trendy, trying to keep up with the present. But there are books whose time has come, for they anticipate questions and issues that most readers are only just beginning to think about in hesitant ways. *Wasting Time with God* is one such timely, significant book.

Klaus Issler does not directly address the inquietude, even frustration, that many Christians feel about organized religion, church life and the whole gamut of institutionalized and professionalized expressions of faith. But “A Christian Spirituality of Friendship with God”—as the subtitle describes—is bound to stir up some inner disenchantment with whatever may be alienating our inner spirit as we gain deeper insights of God’s ways with us in the intimacy of his love. As its title indicates, then, this book is gently subversive of those who are spiritually asleep in their contented, even though perhaps activist, religious status quo.

To adopt Jesus’ metaphor of new wine requiring new wineskins, this excellent book guides us suggestively, as if we are following our own heart’s desire; yet it is prescribing “the Way of the Lord” in our cultural context. It is truthful and yet kindly, faithful to God’s Word and yet flexible to various levels of personal intimacy with God himself. For as we become increasingly dissatisfied with impersonal structures, our quest for love—God’s love—grows out of hunger for friendships that reflect such love. This process releases a spiritual dynamic that grows and matures while remaining structured and disciplined. Thus the reader is invited into





an interactive reading experience that penetrates more challengingly than merely being informed. For that reason this is a dangerous book.

Wasting Time with God may catch you off balance and start you on a journey into a deeper walk with God than any you had imagined possible. For as we sometimes say of our search for something precious, “no stone was left unturned,” it can be said likewise of this work. *Wasting Time with God* illustrates well a dictum of John Cardinal Newman: “Introduce God into your conscious life, and it admits a fact that transcends and excludes every other thought conceivable.”

James M. Houston

