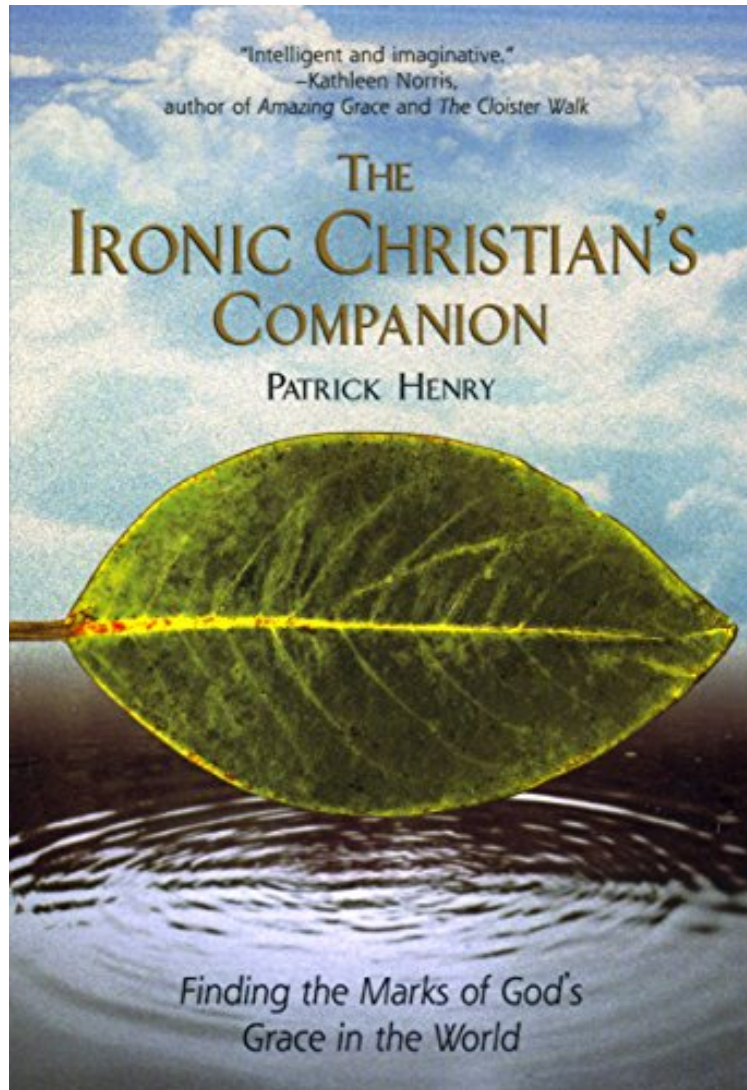


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The Ironic Christian's Companion: Finding the Marks of God's Grace in the World

Von Patrick Henry

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Von Patrick Henry : The Ironic Christian's Companion: Finding the Marks of God's Grace in the World
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ironic Christian's Companion: Finding the Marks of God's Grace in the World:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Book highly audience dependent Von M. J. Smith The primary thesis of this book - that a Christian has not logical certainty but must balance opposing views - was a surprise to me. Not because it was new but rather that it was to me self-

evident. For example, I had been taught with regards to God's omniscience and man's freewill that the two concepts framed a mystery we could not understand but could perhaps pull the frame together a bit to point at the truth we cannot fully know. I was similarly caught off-guard by the seeming surprise with which the author confronted the myriad of world calendars - Jewish, Islamic, Thai etc. The effects on one's Christianity of either assuming the 2nd coming is near or that it is far off in cosmological time had interest. Of more interest to me, is the author's growth in understanding the issues related to gender based language. If one has a faith based on certainties, if one has not confronted the issues with which the author deals in a universal and transcultural way, then this book has a great deal to offer. It will help place your faith in the real world - with all the real world messiness. If one has a faith based on uncertainties, thought out in universal, transcultural and across multiple faith, then this book has a great deal to offer in learning how the other side thinks and grows.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. **Becoming A Born-Again Reader** Von Jon Armajani, Assistant Professor of Religion, Carleton College As a college professor who teaches courses in Christianity and Islam and as a Presbyterian Minister, I have read a wide variety of books on Christian theology and spirituality. There is no work which I have read that addresses the relationship between the life of the spirit and the mind better than Henry's *Irony Christian's Companion*. He lucidly combines his personal experiences as a Christian and his life-long intellectual interests in crafting a book which addresses some of the deepest concerns that people have in leading their lives. In a thoughtful and nuanced yet very direct manner Henry shares his thoughts on issues as diverse as death, suicide, divorce, friendships, romance, beauty, time, place, paying attention and the processes involved in finding meaning in the most difficult of life's circumstances. One riveting aspect of the book is that it resists simple answers to life's complex questions. The *Irony Christian's Companion* is not a "how-to" or "self-help" book which attempts to provide a simple solution to life's hardships. Rather, it invites readers to raise new questions about their position in the universe and provides them with a rich set of suggestions regarding how they can begin viewing their humanity and their relationships with the Divine differently. The fact that Henry handles observations about life's meaning from cab-drivers on an equal footing as those from Pope John Paul II is indicative of the freshness in his approach. During the past several years, I have been very embarrassed by the narrowness and myopic simple-mindedness of books authored by various Christian writers. The *Irony Christian's Companion's* attention to life's multifaceted ambiguities and its propensity to evoke novel perspectives about some of the deepest mysteries we face make it a sophisticated and straightforward volume for religious and non-religious persons alike. It is one of the few works that I would recommend with equal confidence to Christians and non-Christians alike.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. **An interesting, humorous 'discussion'.** Von Darren White It is difficult to write a review --something which tends to be concrete and objective-- about a book which takes as a basic premise the escape of both rigid modes of analysis! Patrick Henry's "Companion" is an interesting book, from all angles: whether Christian or otherwise. His insights into the 'irony' of Christian life and God's grace in the world are interesting, though they tend to speak less of "finding the marks of God's grace in the world" (from the title) than finding the author's own 'looking-back' interpretations of the events in his life. Perhaps they are connected, perhaps one and the same; and that idea is, in a way, one of Henry's main points. This is an entertaining book, if nothing else, and what may be found objectionable in the author's theology is offset with his own humour and anecdote.

Kurzbeschreibung A prominent religious scholar who isn't afraid to shake our assumptions and probe our imaginations, Patrick Henry has written a guide for the "ironic Christian" one who strives to integrate truth with faith, to let an expanding knowledge of the world translate into an expanded understanding of God. Drawing on the works of a diverse group of writers and thinkers, from C.S. Lewis and Julian of Norwich to Anne Sexton, Yogi Berra, and Dr. Seuss, he explores the ways in which we can maintain our belief in a God defined by mysteriousness. With humor, humility, and courage, he asks us to join him in this spiritual quest in the dizzying, thrilling leaps that faith invites.

dePatrick Henry is a scholar of early Christianity who taught at Swarthmore College and now runs an ecumenical institute in Minnesota, yet he can't say exactly what his book's title means. In other circumstances, imprecise authorial intent might be annoying. But in *The Ironic Christian's Companion*, such imprecision is actually refreshing. And even though Henry can't quite bring himself to say what "ironic Christianity" is, he's quite articulate when describing what it's like. Ironic Christians, he says, have "an instinctive, abiding suspicion of no-loose-ends answers." They "inhabit a world that is more 'as if' than 'just like,' a world fashioned by a God of surprises." Henry, who writes like a grandfatherly Kathleen Norris, calls his grab-bag book of autobiographical sketches, literary anecdotes, and spiritual meditations a "field guide" for Christians who seek amazing expressions of grace. With passages such as the following, Henry begins to build a reputation as a latter-day Audubon of the spirit: Over and over again grace has come off as irony: an off-balance deflating of my pride, sometimes as funny as vaudeville slapstick; a gentle dismantling of my despair (when I'm really hopeless nothing is scarier than hope, so grace has to be indirect, sneaky; clarity when I'm too confused and confusion when I'm too clear. --Michael Joseph Gross *Pressestimmen*) As in

The Canterbury Tales, the reader will meet an uncommon mix of seekers....The blend of the spiritual with the rational will delight many readers, some of whom may meet a God full of surprises." Library Journal "I'm happy to report that I've found the third in a series of recently published books that takes up the study of God and his grace and does it in a readable and inspiring fashion. (The other two are *Amazing Grace* by Kathleen Norris and *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott.)" Jon Hassler, *The Minneapolis Pioneer Press*