

# IMITATION OF CHRIST BY THOMAS A. KEMPIS, CLARE L. FITZPATRICK



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## Amazon.com Review

The Thomas à Kempis fan club includes St. Ignatius, Thomas Merton, Thomas More, and even Agatha Christie's Miss Marple. (She reads a chapter of *The Imitation of Christ* every night before sleep.) *Imitation* has exerted immense influence on Christian worship, ethics, and church structure, because it gives specific yet broad-minded guidance about the central task of Christian life--learning to live like Jesus. Better to read this book a little here and there, now and then, than to try gobbling it cover to cover. *Imitation* is no triumph of orderly thinking, but it's a great monument and incentive to deep living. --Michael Joseph Gross

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This classic has drawn thousands of readers down the ages, including Henry VIII's chancellor Thomas More, John Wesley, Irish patriot Daniel O'Connell and St Ignatius of Loyola, who reputedly would offer the book as a gift to acquaintances. Not surprisingly for such a timeless, readable and profound work, it still has many fans. The author, born in Germany and later a monk at Mount St Agnes, Zwolle, made a copy of the Bible as well as writing three other devotional works. He died in 1471. This book is remarkably contemporary in translation, losing none of its simplicity and profundity. In a chapter on 'despising the world's honours', for example, 'God' advises: 'My son, don't feel down in the dumps when you see others being promoted ... raise your heart to me in heaven and the disdain the world shows you will no longer grieve you.' This edition, part of a series of resurrected spiritual classics and nicely presented in paperback, makes an ideal gift. (Kirkus UK) --(Kirkus UK)

## Language Notes

Text: English, Latin (translation)

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Written five centuries ago by a humble monk, this timeless message of faith in Christ's teachings remains a vital source of spiritual strength for people seeking to follow in the footsteps of the Lord.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

64 of 65 people found the following review helpful.

"Always keep this book close to your heart"

By William Benedict T.O.C.

~A Carmelite Hermit/Priest once came upon me reading a copy of 'The Imitation of Christ' in the cloistered garden of the hermitage that I was living at temporarily. He sat beside me and looked at my book with a

warm smile, he said "Always keep this book close to your heart, and you will never go astray". Since that day, it is rare for me to go anywhere without a well read copy of the Catholic Classic stuffed with care in my bag, and read a chapter or two every chance I get. It never gets 'old', and it's refreshing, penetrating words always "speak to me" in new and inviting ways, as if it were the first time reading that particular passage every time!

I was very pleased to see these new leather zip-cover versions, as I've gone through a couple soft cover versions with daily wear and tear, in and out of the backpack, etc. There are two versions in these similar covers, two different translations by two separate publishers. The one pictured here is my personal favorite, published by TAN, it is the same trusted and true old translation that is found in the beloved old 'Confraternity of the Precious Blood' versions.... that familiar little blue soft-covered version with stunning b&w detailed pictures to meditate upon as you read. This version was originally translated from Latin by Richard Challoner D.D., and is more true to the original translation. Though it is written in an older style of proper English, it is easy enough for most people to comprehend, and the older writing style has much artistic, poetic charm that is often times lost in some of the newer 'up-to-date' English translations. Remember, this is the second most translated and published book in history next to the Holy Bible! The other new leather zip-cover version available now looks nearly identical to this, but rather than a Cross on the front cover, it has a 'Chi Ro' design and omits the authors' name. This version, equally impressive, is put out by the Catholic Book Publishing Co., and is the same translation (edited by Clare L.Fitzpatrick) that is available in the small red hardcover version that is quite popular by the same publisher. This too is an excellent version, but the translation is much more modern and more readable by the everyday layperson, or anyone who wishes to hear this timeless wisdom in a more easily accessible version without the 'thee's, thou's, and shall's" of the aforementioned version. It's personal preference, example...

first line of the TAN version = "He that followeth me, walketh not in darkness," ..... as opposed to the CBPC's version, "No one who follows Me will ever walk in darkness." (John 8:12).

~But, to be truly enlightened and touched by these timeless words of wisdom of the Spiritual Life, I recommend buying both versions, and absorbing both as to get a better understanding of these holy and guiding words. There are those who may say that A' Kempis's writings are 'not for everyone', as most of his writings were written to give guidance to the young novitiates of his monastic order where he served as Novice Master for a time, but please do not let that turn you away from the holy and life changing power of his spiritually uplifting direction that still speaks to many today. If you have any call to any form of holiness, or just want to enhance and reinvigorate your daily spiritual life, there is no way that you can go wrong with Thomas A 'Kempis and this, his most well known and loved body of work.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Let the buyer beware of the Kindle versions of this book- presently it is a Digireads Publishing version!

By DAJ

The review of the Kindle Version of the Imitation of Christ, specifically TRANSLATED BY REV. WILLIAM BENHAM, DIGIBOOKS PUBLISHING, is written in the old English. If you prefer your bible translation as the King James Version, then this is the version for you. If you prefer a different translation, say NIV, or the New King James 2016 Version, then this is NOT FOR YOU. I do recognize that subtle but sometimes important differences can be had between translations, but for me, I do like the DOVER THRIFT VERSION.

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AMAZON!

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A splendid work, and one which I cannot wait to read again!

By Thomas

"In temptations and troubles a man is proved." The Imitation of Christ is replete with quotes like this one, along with many more that are religious and devotional. It is a book that teaches humility and the celebration of being part of God, along with being a self-help book.

I am speaking of the Kindle edition published by Xist Publishing, ISBN 978-1-68195-029-7 (Amazon often has reviews that span different editions of the same title). According to Amazon, the translator is William Benham, though I cannot find his name anywhere in the book.

This edition had somewhat of a King James Bible style of English, though more understandable, and the stateliness of expression really complemented the profound messages of the author. I'm trying to be as specific as possible as to which text this actually is (hence, I've put the ISBN), such that other readers can enjoy it as well.

It has been a pleasure to read, and I look forward to reading it again. It is the kind of book to keep at one's bedside.

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