All I can say is WOW! I fell flat on my face after reading this young man’s terrifying insight. I cannot express in greater terms the absolute need to read this book. Look at the title of it. That’s it isn’t it? Galatians 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for me". A quote by George Whitfield in the preface: "How did my heart rise and shudder like a poor man that is afraid to look into his ledger lest he should find himself a bankrupt. 'Shall I burn this book? Shall I throw it down? or shall I search it?' I did search it; and, holding the book in my hand, thus addressed the God of heaven and earth: 'Lord, if I am not a Christian, for Jesus Christ's sake show me what Christianity is, that I may not be damned at last.' I read a little further, and discovered that they who know anything of religion know it is a vital union with the Son of God -- Christ formed in the heart. O
what a ray of divine life did then break in upon my soul! "Reading this book terrified me because I had to ask "Now that I know these things, what shall I do?". And that began the process where the Lord ripped me open down to the very essence of my nature and furiously broke into my existence. Thank God for His Son and the relationship They have with each other. Feel free to write; I would love to discuss further.

If anyone claims to be a Christian or has an interest in what it means to become one, he or she should read this book. Scougal, who began his illustrious ministerial and academic career in his teenage years and only lived into his late twenties, has some of the deepest insights into the definition of being a Christian that have ever been printed. He discusses a person’s conversion, thoroughly describing the roles of God and man in justification. Scougal then goes into great detail concerning the ramifications of that experience into a Christian’s life: he dives deep into the effect of a person’s new-found way of life upon his or her mind, will, and affections. His ability to describe the process of sanctification in an orderly, vivid, descriptive, and passionate way is unparalleled. The book is actually a long letter from Scougal to one of his theological peers who had recently lost heart in his pursuit of God, so the book itself challenges the reader to grow, yet reads warmly and is uplifting. The only obstacle is that most editions of this book (if not all) are in the original Middle English, making the full meaning of the words and phrases a little difficult at times for the modern reader. The author’s logical flow and warmth of spirit make up for that, though, and make this book one of the most thorough and challenging descriptions of Christian justification and sanctification theology ever.

This one little book written back in the 1600’s will challenge any one who professes to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It will open one’s eyes to what true religion or true Christianity is. It isn’t rituals. It isn’t legalistic rules. Christianity is about being united in soul and spirit with the Holy One.

In his book, Henry Scougal concisely, yet powerfully, spells out what a true Christian looks like. Though our society is mostly a Christian one, not many (including me) live their lives like Scougal’s generation of true believers did. Our society has taught us to be relative - as long as we are more "holy" than most of the others in society, we are ok. Scougal teaches us how to be objective - with our focus on God and who He wants us to be. I highly recommend this book for those believers who have realized that their watered-down faith needs to be made strong in the Lord’s eyes.
Repentance itself is a delightful exercises, when it floweth from the principle of love. There is a secret sweetness which accompanieth those tears of remorse, those melttings and relentings of a soul returning into God, and lamenting its former unkindness. ~ Henry Scougal

Henry Scougal was wise beyond his years. This book contains three letters he wrote to a friend so this book is divided up into three parts. The topics range from the difference between a religious and carnal man to the topic of how to develop a vibrant love for God. There is a small meditation on the suffering of Christ and many stories from the New Testament to consider. I liked the section on divine love and the comparison between divine love and human love. Henry Scougal explains how human love is a troublesome passion while loving God will make you the happiest because God is always present with the believer and will never leave them lonely. Also, rarely have I seen anyone speak of repentance in such a beautiful way. Henry Scougal also explains how proud and arrogant people always seem ready to quarrel. He goes on to say that if you are humble other people’s opinion of you can’t hurt you. So there is a lot to gain from reading these letters. I've rarely read any letters which were this spiritually beautiful.~The Rebecca Review

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