Gospel Writers

Matthew

Meditations

Tradition

If you read Matthew's gospel,

Prayers

A Few More Thoughts on Matthew

Matthew? Three kings – er, actually an indefinite number of astrologers – who didn't follow the star; they saw the star in the East and travelled West – and the Sermon on the Mount. Plus the memorable little acrostic in Matthew 7:7 Ask, Seek, Knock – A S K

Matthew does not begin with a statement of what he is writing or why. The effect of this is, of course, to put extra weight on the end of the Gospel, and indeed Matthew 28:16-20 form an apt summary of the whole.

Mark

Meditations

Prayers

A Few More Thoughts on Mark

What a lot of stick Mark gets – I can only assume that most theological students have never actually read the Gospel.

Contrary to their opinions, Mark's gospel is actually very tightly and carefully constructed; he places great importance on logic, balance and symmetry.

Luke

Meditations

Prayers

A Few More Thoughts on Luke

This gospel is of course Part 1 of a two-volume work, Part 2 being the Acts of the Apostles.

At least he tells us clearly what he is doing!

John

Meditations

Prayers

A Few More Thoughts on John

Some Final Thoughts on the Gospel Writers

Four for the Gospel writers. Matthew Mark Luke and John bless the bed that I lie on.

The Gospels are not the oldest witness to Jesus, but they are indispensable to understanding just who and what he was. Imagine Christianity without any knowledge of Jesus' conception, birth, parables and miracles!

The four writers have very different personalities, even though they steal material shamelessly from each other. These personalities have traditionally been associated with the four beasts before the throne, in the Revelation of John, but I deal with the beasts separately, because they link to the beasts Ezekiel saw. But the pictures of Matthew concerned with people, and of John soaring like an eagle are helpful.

You will find plenty of information about the Gospels in any commentary. I see no reason to copy it out here.