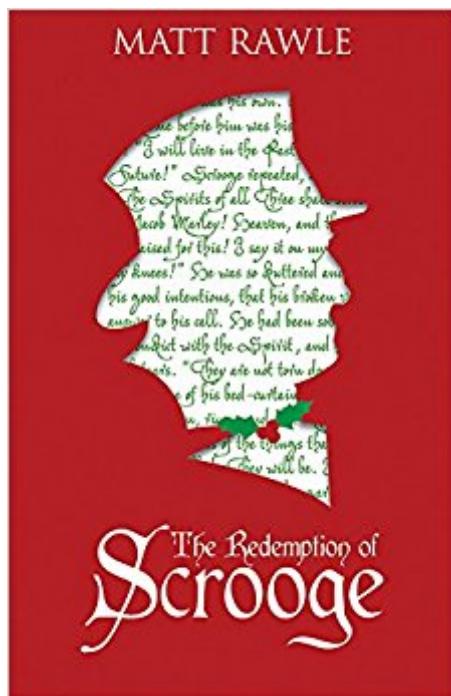


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# The Redemption Of Scrooge (The Pop In Culture Series)



## **Synopsis**

Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Pastor and author Matt Rawle believes so as he discovers the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol. Rawle dives deep into the dark, sad, greedy world of Scrooge and discovers a man in dire need of a second chance. Along with Scrooge, we meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future and in the process learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. Chapters include: Bah! Humbug! The Remembrance of Christmas Past The Life of Christmas Present The Hope of Christmas Future

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Matt Rawle is Lead Pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana. Matt is an international speaker who loves to tell an old story in a new way, especially at the intersection of pop culture and the church. He is the author of a new series of books titled The Pop in Culture Series. The series includes The Faith of a Mockingbird, Hollywood Jesus, The Salvation of Doctor Who and The Redemption of Scrooge.Â

Leaders guide was not focused enough and seemed to have too many random and abstract thoughts. More attention to the story would have been better in a link that back to the specifics of Advent. It was after an Advent study. It was OK but needs to be reworked. It would've been better to

stay focused more on the story.

Well written. Like it. I liked 'The Salvation of Dr. Who' also by Matt Rawle more, but Scrooge is very good.

(I thought I was ordering the book, not the discussion leader's guide.)

Insightful comparison to Christian principles.

Good addition to Youth book.

Good book

Matt Rawle ("Hollywood Jesus," "The Salvation of Doctor Who," etc.), Methodist minister from Louisiana and prolific author, has set a high bar for himself and his books (the "Pop in Culture" series) - he's trying to reconnect Christianity and pop culture. In his latest book, Rawle seeks to explore the Christian underpinnings of the Ebenezer Scrooge story, "A Christmas Carol." He starts with the promising question - given that Charles Dickens' story focuses on the redemption of Scrooge, why does everyone associate the word "Scrooge" with a horrible miser and curmudgeon? Unfortunately, Rawle does not focus on or explore Scrooge's story in any great depth, but instead uses Scrooge's story as the skeleton for a discussion of Christmas and Christianity. And that exploration, quite frankly, is cursory - contrary to the official book description that Rawle will "dive deep into the dark, sad, greedy world of Scrooge." Indeed, Rawle's exploration of Scrooge may comprise less than 15% of the pages in the book - which is already a short affair. This is the first of Rawle's books that I have read, so perhaps if I had read the other books I would have known what to expect. Rawle does raise some interesting questions about Christians and Christmas, but the book seems slap-dash. For example, Rawle refers three times to the same Christmas service that he ran for people who were struggling with the idea of Christmas, but each time he refers to it as if it were the first time, repeating the revelations that were made by some of the parishioners. He has not built on a theme by the repetition - it seems like poor editing rather than an attempt to build on the other references. Overall, Rawle's book is not particularly insightful about Scrooge. To be fair, Rawle is not writing a book of literary criticism, but Rawle's observations on Scrooge seem isolated from the rest of the book. They also seem at times contradictory. One of the clearest messages

from "A Christmas Carol" is that a man who prizes money above his fellow man is doomed, but a wealthy man who freely gives to those less fortunate is blessed. But Rawle also writes that God's grace cannot be bought. That is a fascinating dichotomy, but Rawle really doesn't explore what this means in the context of Christianity. If God's grace cannot be bought, then is it OK to put money first? If God's grace cannot be bought, does the Presbyterian ideal of proving faith through good works have a leaky hull? Rawle, unfortunately, discusses this fascinating idea quickly and then moves on to less interesting questions. There's nothing in Rawle's book that is objectionable, but there's also little to be found here that is worth the price of admission. Ebenezer Scrooge deserves a better analysis.

I rather enjoyed this book, but it doesn't really live up to its promise. The United Methodist pastor, Matt Rawls, drifts away from being an analysis of the great Dickens book time and again and this book becomes more of an Advent study than a book about Scrooge and his redemption. The book is composed four long chapters, each being around 30 pages long. Each chapter is devoted both to one aspect of the novel and also to one week of Advent. The result is a rather rambling book which really doesn't delve that deeply into the Dickens novel. It is pretty good as an advent study. It's worth a read by the Christian reader, but I'm not sure that it's worth buying. I would suggest checking to see if your local library has a copy of it before purchasing it.

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