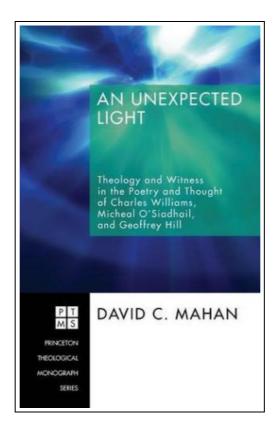
# An Unexpected Light (Hardback)



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# Reviews

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# AN UNEXPECTED LIGHT (HARDBACK)



Pickwick Publications, 2009. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Description: Can poetry matter to Christian theology? David Mahan asks in the introduction to this interdisciplinary work. Does the study of poetry represent a serious theological project? What does poetry have to contribute to the public tasks of theology and the Church? How can theologians, clergy and other ministry professionals, and Christian laypeople benefit from an earnest study of poetry? A growing number of professional theologians today seek to push theological inquiry beyond the relative seclusion of academic specialization into a broader marketplace of public ideas, and to recast the theological task as an integrative discipline, wholly engaged with the issues and sensibilities of the age. Accordingly, such scholars seek to draw upon and engage the insights and practices of a variety of cultural resources, including those of the arts, in their theological projects. Arguing that poetry can be a form of theological discourse, Mahan shows how poetry offers rich theological resources and instruction for the Christian church. In drawing attention to the peculiar advantages it affords, this book addresses one of the greatest challenges facing the church today: the difficulty of effectively communicating the Christian gospel with increasingly disaffected late-modern people. Endorsements: Can poetry matter to Christian theology? To this question, David Mahan s book comprises a resounding yes. With acute sensitivity and painstaking attention to literary detail, the author shows how Christian wisdom is hugely enriched by three major word-crafters. Far from muddying the waters of theological rigor, poetic performance renders theology more precise, lucid, and faithful. An immensely important book, demonstrating just how badly the theologian needs the artist today. --Jeremy Begbie, Thomas A. Langford Research Professor of Theology, Duke University The engagement of theologians with the poetry of recent times...



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