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978-0-521-87545-5 - Christian Wisdom: Desiring God and Learning in Love

David F. Ford

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Christian Wisdom

What is Christian wisdom for living in the twenty-first century? Where is it to be found? How can it be learnt? In the midst of diverse religions and worldviews and the urgencies and complexities of contemporary life, David Ford explores a Christian way of uniting love of wisdom with wisdom in love. Core elements of his discussion include the 'discernment of cries', the love and worship of God for God's sake, a wisdom interpretation of scripture, and the education of desire in wise faith. The book includes case studies that deal with inter-faith wisdom among Jews, Christians and Muslims, universities as places of wisdom as well as of knowledge and know-how, and the challenge of learning disabilities. Throughout, there is an attempt to do justice simultaneously to the premodern, modern and postmodern in grappling with scripture, tradition and the cries of the world today.

DAVID F. FORD is Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge and a fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge. He is author of *Self and Salvation: Being Transformed* (1999) and co-editor with Ben Quash and Janet Martin Soskice of *Fields of Faith: Theology and Religious Studies for the Twenty-First Century* (2005).

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*For my mother, Phyllis Ford, in gratitude for her
wisdom and love*

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As when the heart says (sighing to be approved)
O, could I love! And stops; God writeth, Loved.

GEORGE HERBERT

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Acknowledgements

This book began in 1996, stimulated by an invitation from Professor Iain Torrance to deliver the 1998 Scottish Journal of Theology Lectures in the University of Aberdeen. It was a memorable first visit to Aberdeen, with warm hospitality in the home of Iain and Morag and vigorous discussion of the lectures. I came away convinced that they needed a great deal more work before they could be published, but also encouraged to undertake this.

In the intervening years Iain has been very patient as the promised short book of four lectures turned into a longer work that migrated from the Scottish Journal of Theology Monograph series to the Cambridge Studies in Christian Doctrine. In 2005 there was a happy reconnection of the book with its origins when leading ideas from the chapter on scriptural reasoning were explored in an address and discussion during Iain's inauguration as President of Princeton Theological Seminary. I am deeply grateful to Iain for his seminal role in the book and for his generous support of it through many phases.

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David F. Ford

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