



"Superb . . . full of insights." – BILL MCKIBBEN

SAVING CREATION

Nature and Faith
in the Life of
HOLMES ROLSTON III

CHRISTOPHER J. PRESTON

Praise for *Saving Creation*

"Holmes Rolston is a crucial figure in the development of environmental philosophy, and this book does a superb job of explaining, in literal and figurative terms, where he's coming from. It's full of insights."

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"*Saving Creation* is a beautifully written biography of the renowned environmental ethicist Holmes Rolston. Here we are invited into a remarkable journey of philosophical depth and spiritual struggle. Indeed, the story of Rolston's intellectual and personal formation provides insight beyond one individual into a new human awakening of our moral response to the natural world in which we dwell."

—MARY EVELYN TUCKER, Yale University Forum on Religion and Ecology

"Just as the environmental crisis defies conventional disciplinary boundaries, so does Rolston's work—and Preston's book is an excellent way into a holistic view of both the thinker and the larger context."

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"Holmes Rolston practices his knowledge of our environmental crisis by actively caring for the majestic ecosystems of the American West. He believes, with the Christian New Testament, in 'doing the truth.' To read this biography is to hope that his tribe will increase."

—DONALD W. SHRIVER JR., president and professor emeritus of ethics, Union Theological Seminary, New York

"Few thinkers working today are as important as Holmes Rolston."

—MICHAEL P. NELSON, coeditor of *The Great New Wilderness Debate*



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Nature and Faith in the Life of
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Saving Creation is the compelling story of Templeton Prize winner and Gifford lecturer Holmes Rolston III. Known as the "father of environmental ethics," Rolston is celebrated for his advocacy to protect the Earth's biodiversity and for his critical work reconciling evolutionary biology and Christianity. Christopher J. Preston conducted countless hours of personal interviews with Rolston, his family members, and his close colleagues and friends to produce this straightforward and engaging biography.

More than any other thinker in contemporary life, Rolston has a persuasive tale to tell about the place where God, nature, and humanity meet. Preston documents the evolution of Rolston's environmental philosophy, from his idyllic childhood in the Shenandoah Mountains to his Presbyterian ministry and finally to his groundbreaking work reconciling biology and theology. Preston reveals how Rolston's pursuits have often been outside the mainstream and ahead of his time, leaving him an outsider among his peers and a figure of controversy. Rolston challenged the notion of a human-centered value system and looked deeper to embrace the intrinsic value of plants, animals, and ecosystems. Preston deftly recounts how, despite criticism, Rolston continued undeterred.

In 1997 Rolston delivered the Gifford Lectures, an annual series at the University of Edinburgh that is a forum for the world's most influential thinkers in theology and nature. And in 2003 the Duke of Edinburgh awarded Rolston the Templeton Prize for discoveries in science and religion. Other prize winners have included Mother Theresa, Billy Graham, and Aleksander Solzhenitsyn. With this prize, Rolston's intellectual achievements and singular stature were recognized worldwide, and it was confirmation of his bold and profound contributions to the intersection of modern science and religion.



CHRISTOPHER J. PRESTON teaches philosophy at the University of Montana in Missoula. He is the author of *Grounding Knowledge: Environmental Philosophy, Epistemology, and Place* and the coeditor, with Wayne Ouderkirk, of *Nature, Value, and Duty: Life on Earth with Holmes Rolston, III*. A noted expert on environmental philosophy, he has won several grants and is often a guest speaker on environmental issues.



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[Review, *Saving Creation*, by Steven Bouma-Prediger
Interpretation 64 \(October 2010\):436-437.](#)

[Review, *Saving Creation*, by Walter Brueggemann
Christian Century 127 \(No. 2, January 26, 2010\):37-39.](#)

[Booknotes, by Anthony O'Hear, Royal Institute of Philosophy
Philosophy 85\(2010\):141-142.](#)

**Review, by Robin Attfield
Environmental Ethics 32(2010):417-420.**

"Holmes Rolston, III is on any account a towering figure both in environmental ethics and in the field of science and religion. Christopher Preston has now performed a service by publishing Rolston's first biography, written in a relaxed, semi-popular style. Debates and deep issues are tackled with the profundity they deserve, as well as significant biographical landmarks; in keeping with the style quotations are selected as encapsulating Rolston's thinking of one or another period, but are seldom ascribed to particular works. ... One of the greatest strengths of the work is its excellent coverage of theological and religious issues, in connection with Rolston's early upbringing, heritage, and theological training, and with his much more recent work reconciling science and faith. ... Preston's enjoyable book ... can be recommended as a good read ... and also supplements the achievements of a thinker who will be as much remembered for his inauguration of environmental philosophy, for his generosity, and for his striking prose evocations of nature, as for the force of his often ingenious and incisive arguments."