

HENRIC SCHARTAU
AND
THE ORDER OF GRACE

Biography by Henrik Hägglund and
Fifteen Sermons by Henric Schartau

Translated by
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A Word of Introduction

One of the earliest and dearest memories from my childhood is that of mother reading the Postil of Henric Schartau. After her death I inherited the blessed book and began to read it with new interest. Three years earlier I had, upon my visit to Sweden, met the Rev. L. M. Engström, one of the most spiritual pastors in the Church of Sweden and, indeed, one of the most devout of men to be found anywhere or at any time. This honorable divine made the statement that in his opinion Schartau was the greatest religious psychologist that the Christian Church has ever had, excepting neither the reformers nor the church fathers.

This very naturally increased my interest. A few years later I bought the Biography of Henric Schartau by Henrik Hägglund, another of the notable "Church-herds" in the Church of Sweden of to-day. It is needless to say that the name of this author rather interested me, especially as I had heard much good of him and his father many years before. A second and greatly enlarged edition of this Biography was published in the beginning of 1925 as a Centennial Biography, a hundred years after Schartau's death, Feb. 3, 1825. When I finished this second edition, which had quite captivated my interest from beginning to end, I gave expression to my feelings in the following words,

“Schartau was indeed a great man
And a prophet of the Lord.”

The feeling grew upon me that the Lutheran Church of America, and especially those of us who hail from the Church of Sweden, should also commemorate the hundredth anniversary of so great a Lutheran as Schartau was. I first thought of translating “My Mother’s Postil.” And in fact I offered to do so. It seemed to me that such a title should appeal to many who have memories like my own. As an alternative, I offered to translate the above named Biography. The publishers, however, did not see their way clear to carry out either suggestion, but thought best to make a selection of a few of Schartau’s sermons and to publish these with extracts of Dr. Hägglund’s Biography. It is with the approval of my worthy namesake as well as that of the publishers that I am now offering a much smaller volume than first intended.

Schartau is perhaps best known for his studies in the order of grace, “nådens ordning”, as it is called in Swedish, “ordo salutis,” the way of salvation. In fact he made a real contribution to this branch of Christian theology, delving deeply, not only into the Holy Scriptures, but also into human life. Schartau had the gifts of a real investigator and systematizer. He therefore speaks with unwavering authority, like one who knows whereof he speaks. We must not then here expect to find the outpourings of sentimentalism, but rather look for clear pronouncements of divine truth. Schartau, like all really great men, grows larger and larger in the proportion that one learns to know him,

and I can heartily commend him to the prayerful consideration of every reader.

May I add that I have applied myself to the work prayerfully, hoping that in this way also the Swedish branch of the great Lutheran Church may make somewhat of a distinct contribution to American theology and to devotional literature in the English language, to the upbuilding of the Kingdom and to the salvation of souls.

Vasa Church Parsonage, Boston, Mass.,

March, 1926.

THE TRANSLATOR.