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## On Conscience.

From an article entitled "Psychology according to the Bible,"  
by Prof. J. Herzer, Springfield, Ill.

Conscience (*συνείδησις*) is derived from the Latin *conscientia* (*con*, together, and *scio*, to know). As the etymology indicates, it signifies "joint knowledge" with either a thing or a person. Conscience is attributed to the human soul in the New Testament 31 times: Rom. 2, 15; John 8, 9; Rom. 9, 1; 13, 5; 1 Cor. 8, 7; 10, 25. 27. 28. 29 (twice); 2 Cor. 1, 12; 4, 3; 5, 11; 1 Pet. 2, 19; Heb. 9, 9. 14; 1 Tim. 1, 5 (good). 19 (good); 1 Tim. 3, 9 (pure); Acts 24, 16 (void of offense); 2 Tim. 1, 3 (pure); 1 Pet. 3, 16 (good). 3, 21 (good); Heb. 13, 18 (good); 1 Cor. 8, 10. 12 (wounded, weak); 1 Tim. 4, 2 (seared); Titus 1, 15 (defiled); Heb. 10, 22 (evil); 10, 2; Acts 23, 1 (good).

Modern psychologies largely neglect and ignore the doctrine of conscience; even Christian psychology often pays little attention to it. But from the Bible, especially the New Testament, we learn that conscience is an innate aptitude of every human soul. According to Rom. 2, 15 it is a witness found in every man. St. Paul here says of the Gentiles that their conscience "bears witness." This is an important passage for us when we seek to establish what the Bible designates as conscience. We see here that the testimony of man's conscience must be distinguished from the "work of the Law written in his heart" or soul. Conscience, therefore, is not identical with the moral norm, the divine Law, or any other law. It bears witness to the divine Law and its demands, its authoritativeness and sternness. Conscience in man, then, must be defined as the natural aptitude and faculty of the human soul whereby the ethical relation between his disposition or conduct and an acknowledged moral norm is spontaneously suggested to man's consciousness. The primary function of the conscience is this, that it applies the Law in its statements concerning the moral quality of an act contemplated or committed. It places every act in its ethical category, according to the divine Law "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt

## BOOK REVIEW.

Die Bibel oder die ganze Heilige Schrift Alten und Neuen Testaments nach der deutschen Uebersetzung D. Martin Luthers, mit jedem Kapitel vorhergesetzten grossen Summarien usw. Ans Licht gestellt durch *Ehrenfried Liebich*. Mit einer Vorrede usw. von *D. Johann Friedr. Burg*. (Buch- und Kunstverlag Karl Hirsch A. G., Konstanz.) \$6.00. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This is the so-called *Hirschberger Bibel*, which bears on its initial page the above title (given here in abridged form). It was first published in the days of mounting Rationalism, at which time it was little noticed and bought. It was placed on the market a second time when the old Bible faith had reasserted itself and the good old books were once more coming into their own. For a number of years the book could not be purchased except second-hand. It is with real joy that we now announce its reappearance in the ordinary channels of trade. The *Hirschberger Bibel* contains, beside the German text of the Scriptures, brief, concise comments on passages that are somewhat obscure or have given rise to attacks on the inspiration of the Scriptures. Frequently a literal translation of the original Hebrew or Greek is appended, whenever this helps to throw light on the meaning of the text. The *Hirschberger Bibel* firmly upholds the divine character and the inerrancy of the Scriptures. The aim of its authors was largely apologetic, namely, to refute the arguments of the enemies of the Bible, who charge it with inconsistencies and errors. It is true that a reader will hardly accept every explanation of difficulties or seeming discrepancies offered here, but in the vast majority of instances he will, if he is a believer in the inerrancy of the Scriptures, find himself in agreement with the views of the authors. A sample of the comments will not be unwelcome.

The difficult passage Matt. 27, 9 is given two notes. The first one attaches itself to the name Jeremiah and reads thus: "The prophecy here adduced is not found in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah, but we read it Zech. 11, 12, 13. Now, either the name Jeremiah is here used to designate the collection containing all the prophecies of the Old Testament, because in ancient times the Jews were wont to place this book at the beginning of the writings of the prophets; or, as is still more probable, Jeremiah, among other prophecies, *spoke* of this matter at a time not known to us. Hence we are here, in keeping with the text, dealing with an oral saying of his, which Zechariah, who lived later (cf. Jer. 1, 2, 3 and Zech. 1, 1), committed to writing, having been directed by God to do so. According to this latter view, Matthew received his information as to the author of this prophecy from the Holy Spirit, who spoke through him as well as through Jeremiah. Cf. 2 Pet. 1, 21. Cp. an almost similar case, Jude 14, 9. Just as Matt. 2, 23 (see end of the respective note), a probable instance is found of a prophecy which was given only orally. — The other note has reference to the words: "They took the thirty pieces of silver." It reads: "The Greek may also be translated thus: 'They took thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him whom they [themselves] thus estimated [namely Jesus, on whom the Jews put just this price, chap. 26, 14, 15], taken from the sons of Israel, and gave the thirty pieces of silver,' etc."

These two notes show the amount of learning which is here compressed into a small space and the devout spirit in which the Scriptures are examined and explained. We do not know of a better one-volume commentary for both Testaments than the *Hirschberger Bibel*. It may be added, in conclusion, that Concordia Publishing House helped to make possible this venture and that Dr. L. Fuerbringer has written a very informing introductory article for this edition.

**Men and Missions.** Edited by *L. Fuerbringer*. Vol. IV: *Our China Missions*. 48 pages. 30 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Interest in our Foreign Mission work is needed if our Christians are to send missionaries to foreign countries, supply the financial needs of such work, and pray for its success. The fourth volume of the *Men and Missions* series is to arouse interest in our mission-work in China. Pastors who will see to it that their people buy and read the new booklet will use good judgment.

FRTZ.

**The Battle of the Bible with the "Bibles."** By *William Dallmann, D. D.* 60 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This newest book by Dr. Dallmann is not a large, elaborate work, as the title might suggest, but a small volume of sixty-six pages, written in Dr. Dallmann's plain English and filled with a wealth of material gleaned by the author from a careful reading of many books. Those who would in an hour or two learn what is taught by the various different religious systems in the world, such as Islamism, Hinduism, Taoism, Spiritism, New Thought, etc., will find it in this little volume and will, as a result, be convinced that, after all, the Bible of the Christian religion is unique in that it teaches a Savior from sin, while all religious systems of men do not. This book ought to be put into the hands of our lay people. The D. D. degree was recently conferred upon Pastor Dallmann, and "to the Faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for conferring the honoray degree of Doctor of Theology, and to the English District, for suggesting the honor, this booklet is very gratefully dedicated."

FRTZ.

**Magazin fuer ev.-luth. Homiletik und Pastoraltheologie.** Deutsch-englische Monatsschrift. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This publication has completed its fiftieth year. The last issue has in a modest way been gotten out as a jubilee number; it contains, besides the usual matter, a full-page picture of Dr. Geo. Mezger, who for over twenty-five years (1896—1923) was its managing editor, and a special historical article by Dr. L. Fuerbringer. The *Magazin*, devoted to homiletics and pastoral theology, was originally gotten out in German, but is now, and has been for a number of years, a German-English publication. The present managing editor is Prof. Otto C. A. Boecler of the St. Louis Concordia Seminary Faculty, the entire Faculty being the editorial board. In the course of its fifty years the *Magazin* has no doubt been a valuable contributing factor to the good sermonizing of the pastors of our Synod. The sermon is not only the pastor's chief task, but also his hardest task. It requires real labor to get out and to deliver a good sermon. While the preacher will find that in the course of years he can write and preach better

sermons, the conscientious preacher will never find that sermonizing is an easy task. Nor does the *Magazin* intend to make it such, neither for the young nor for the old preacher. The studies of texts are not to keep the sermonizer from prayerfully and carefully searching the Scriptures, nor are the sermon sketches to keep the preacher from doing original work by fixing the theme of the text and writing his own sermon outline. The purpose of the *Magazin* is to show the way to those who would learn, and it was never intended for the lazy preacher, who looks to others to do his work for him. May the Lord continue to bless our *Magazin*, so that also in the second half century it may assist in giving us preachers in the pulpits of our Lutheran Church who will preach the old Gospel by means of good sermons well delivered, for the salvation of men and to the glory of God and our Savior!

FRITZ.

**Lodge vs. Bible.** By *Arnold Guebert*, Spencer, S. Dak. Single copies, 5 cts., dozen, 50 cts.

In this little pamphlet you have the gist of the matter as far as our opposition to lodges is concerned. The author, by quotations from acknowledged lodge authorities, states the position of the lodge on great fundamental doctrines and then quotes what the "Law and the Testimony" has to say on the respective point. The presentation is effective and convincing. Order from the author.

**Character.** A Text-book on Principles of Moral Conduct. By *Henry Varnum and Henrietta Heron*. 408 pages,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$2.00. (The Standard Publishing Co., Cincinnati, O.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The purpose of this book is given in the authors' introduction: "The book is entirely free from religious creeds or doctrines. It deals strictly with moral laws which are applicable to all peoples, and the book, therefore, is suitable for universal use." A recent editorial in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* on "Moral Education Vital" quotes a prominent educator. He said: "The time has come when the teaching of honesty, courtesy, industry, self-reliance, thoroughness, and other moral qualities should have as definite a place in the school program as arithmetic and history. The schools have been criticized for their failure to give moral instruction, and in so far as our work in moral education continues along indirect lines, that criticism is justified. The schools must bring the teaching of moral qualities to a definite, direct, and concrete basis, using the incidents of daily life as material for instruction." Just this kind of moral education the book *Character* intends to supply. From its few thousand sayings we quote at random such as these: "Temper, if ungoverned, governs the whole man." "Reprove in kindness, not in anger, if you would gain the great end of reproof." "You cannot admit a bad thought into your mind without putting yourself in danger." "If you want a thing done well, do it yourself." "One of the most effective ways of bettering the world is to better your own life." "It takes courage to remain in honest poverty when others grow rich by fraud." "Friendships are the purer, the more ardent, the nearer they come to the presence of God." "Time never works; it merely gives you an opportunity to work." "If you lose your honor, you lose one of life's most valuable possessions." "Selfishness makes one unlovely and

unlovable and defeats the very object it seeks to attain." "God is pure, and to be pure in thought, word, and deed is to serve Him who is Purity and Life." "Believe in the God who has written in your heart the law of duty and law of progress, the law of sacrifice and service for others." The book treats many subjects in many chapters. It is really a good book, giving, as we would say in German, *weise Lebensregeln*. Of course, the real motivation for good conduct, a regenerate heart, it will not establish; nor is it its intention to do so. The sayings and rules of conduct given have grown out of the experience of men of all ages. We do not hesitate to recommend the reading of this book. It offers much food for thought and much good practical advice.

FRTZ.

**Business in the Bible.** By *W. G. Barnes*. 86 pages,  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ . 50 cts. (The Vir Publishing Company, Philadelphia.)

One of the purposes of this book, perhaps its chief purpose, is to "provide a book of reference on the subject of business matters mentioned in Scripture." Reference is made to merchants, farmers, manufacturers, buying and selling, creditors and debtors, property taxes, happenings in the business world, etc.

FRTZ.

**Faith, Health, and Common Sense.** By *Edwin A. McAlpin*. 200 pages,  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ . \$1.50. (George H. Doran Company, New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House.)

In this book the author sounds a warning against the abuse of faith-healing as practised by the advocates of Mental Healing, New Thought, Mental Science, Divine Science, Christian Science, and other cults that champion mental therapeutics, and stresses the importance of medicine and the medical profession in healing disease. However, realizing the connection between sin and ill health, he argues that "any sickness which is caused by sin can be either prevented or helped by a proper use of religious faith" (p. 54). In giving illustrations, he, however, modifies this statement and points out the fact that what the world needs to-day is Christian faith, faith in Christ, with a corresponding Christian life, and an observance of the laws of nature guided by common sense. This author is right in urging pastors to emphasize the importance of Christian faith, Christian living, Christian study of God's Word, and Christian prayer as a means by which the blessing of health may be secured or retained in order that people may be preserved from those deceivers who make faith-healing their specialty.

MUELLER.

**The Facts and Mysteries of the Christian Faith.** By *Albertus Pieters, D. D.*, professor of English Bible and Missions in the Western Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America. 198 pages,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$1.00. (The Reformed Press, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

The subtitle of this book is, "A Brief Statement of the Things Christians Believe, and the Reasons Why They Believe Them." In forty-four chapters it treats not only the common subjects that are usually treated in works on apologetics, but also those distinctive doctrines of Christianity which are now being attacked by Modernism. The viewpoint in presenting these doctrines is that of the orthodox Dutch Reformed Church, although the author nowhere evinces a polemical spirit, but rather avoids whatever

might lead to controversial discussion among believing Christians. His objective is to strike at that form of modern unbelief which would wrest from Christendom its glorious faith and hope in Christ, the divine Savior of sinners. Frequently his language is not clear enough, and there are innumerable passages to which a Lutheran Christian cannot subscribe. While the author deprecates millennialism, he declares that the signs of Christ's coming have not yet appeared (p. 192). The assurance of election and salvation he bases on Christian consciousness (p. 171). We enjoyed reading this book, but it must be read with caution. MUELLER.

**Studies in the Life of the Early Church.** By *F. J. Foakes-Jackson*. 254 pages. (George H. Doran Co., New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

This book will be found invaluable by those interested in the history of the primitive Church. Dr. Foakes-Jackson, a recognized authority in this field, has arranged his material topically, and his treatment is illuminating, even though we may not accept all his conclusions. Among others he treats the following subjects: The Discipline of Christianity, Christianity and the Gnosis, Popular Christian Literature, Education in Religion, The Primitive Bishop, and Early Christian Worship. W. G. P.

**The Master of My Boat, and Other Verse.** By *Joseph Addison Richards*. 103 pages,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$1.25. (Geo. H. Doran Company, New York.) Order from Concordia Publishing House.

This collection of poems contains some beautiful verses on subjects or texts from the Bible. They breathe a truly Christian spirit and are radiant with a vital faith. The title of the book is that of the first poem, in which the writer dedicates himself and all he has to Christ. The verses on the Christmas-message or -festival, on the author's home ties, his children and the companion of his life, are full of sweet tenderness. To furnish an example, we quote the poet's "Grace before Meals": —

From Thy hand, full of food, we look up to Thy face  
And see there the great love that provided a place  
For us all to sit down at the heavenly board;  
So we eat and we drink to the praise of the Lord.

MUELLER.

**One Thousand City Churches.** Phases of Adaptation to Urban Environment. By *H. Paul Douglass*. 380 pages,  $6 \times 9$ . \$4.00. (George H. Doran Co., New York.)

This volume is published under the auspices of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, the purpose of which is to supply accurate information on the social work of the various churches in our country. The book was written by Dr. Douglass, noted for his scientific study of city churches. In this volume he gives a report of an investigation of 1,044 representative Protestant churches in cities of over 100,000 population. Of the churches examined 80 to 100 per cent. concentrate their efforts on preaching and the Sunday-school, with special work for the young people and missions; 60 to 80 per cent. have added general social events and choir work; 40 to 60 per cent. have launched out into mission-study classes,

men's organization work, boy scout efforts, etc.; 20 to 40 per cent. have added to their program such things as: lecture courses, library work, concerts, boys' clubs, etc.; 10 to 20 per cent. maintain sewing classes, gymnasium classes, dramatic clubs, parents' organizations, etc.; and 1 to 10 per cent. have added other features, such as classes in domestic science, civics, clinic work, health, kindergarten instruction, etc. More and more the churches are becoming socialized, but by far the majority still stress those activities for which the Church really exists. To those who are interested in the subject the book offers most valuable and reliable information.

MUELLER.

**The Heights of Christian Love.** A Study of First Corinthians Thirteen. By *Doremus A. Hayes*. 228 pages,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ . \$1.50. (The Abingdon Press, New York.)

In this volume, Professor Hayes, instructor in New Testament Interpretation, Graduate School of Theology, Evanston, Ill., sets forth the matchless beauty of Christian love as outlined by Paul in the chapter which constitutes the subtitle of the book. Each term is thoroughly analyzed and etymologically explained, after which it is exemplified by illustrations from the Christian life. This is a beautiful book, written on a beautiful subject, in most beautiful language, and no reader will lay it aside without having derived from it a host of blessings. The hypocritical Christianity, of which there is so much to-day, is not the soil in which Christian love can thrive. What we need to-day is greater sincerity of faith in order that we may have greater sincerity of love. Professor Hayes's book ought to be widely read.

MUELLER.

The *Agentur des Rauhen Hauses, Hamburg, Germany*, has sent us the following works:—

1. **Die Brumsel von Saas-Fee.** Plaudereien mit einer Fliege. Von *Herman Vortisch*. Paper covers, 75 cts.; bound in linen, \$1.05.

This is an entertaining little story, in which a fly gives an account of its life, being fifty days old when the story begins and living twenty days more. In spite of being only fifty days old, however, it already had become the great-grandmother of 125 million other flies. The author succeeds admirably in introducing his readers to the community of flies with its many peculiarities and wonders and often draws on other tribes of the world of insects for illustrations and comparisons. The book is pervaded by a Christian spirit, which, in contemplating the creatures, does not forget the Creator. If the cobwebs in the chambers of one's mind are becoming thick and heavy, we are sure that the sunshine and playful humor of this story will help to remove them.

2. **Elise Averdieck.** Aus dem Leben einer Hundertjaehrigen (1808—1907). By *Hannah Gleiss*. Bound, \$1.80.

An interestingly written biography of a godly woman, who as teacher and deaconess exerted a very wholesome influence and rendered eminent service to her fellow-men. The many letters of Miss Averdieck which are inserted add to the literary value of the book.