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Full Forgiveness.

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Translated from Dr. E. Preuss's *Die Lehre von der Rechtfertigung*, Part V.

(Continued.)

The Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer has been used as an argument against our doctrine. In this petition, it is said, we ask for forgiveness not only of the sins of the last twenty-four hours, but of all our sins, of all the evil we have done each and every day of our lives. Let this, for the moment, be granted. We merely ask, Is such a prayer heard? I think it is; for "if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." 1 John 5, 14. 15. Now, the Fifth Petition certainly is according to the will of God, "for He Himself has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen, that is, yea, yea, it shall be so." If we, therefore, in the Fifth Petition ask for the forgiveness of all our sins and if God hears us, as He must, then we have full forgiveness. And that is all we want, absolutely all. For we cheerfully grant that this full forgiveness is no license to sin, on the contrary, that it must be held fast by daily repentance and faith if it is not to slip away from us.

The baptism of John the Baptist has also been mentioned to show the possibility of incomplete forgiveness. It has even been asserted that the baptism of John did not offer as much salvation as the baptism of Christ. That is Romish doctrine.¹⁾ Up to the coming of Rationalism the Evangelical [Lutheran] Church constantly preached the opposite. All her teachers, from Luther to Spener, have confessed that the baptism of John worked regeneration just as well as the baptism of Christ. If the [so-called]

1) Si quis dixerit, baptismum Joannis habuisse eandem vim cum baptismo Christi, anathema sit. (*Concilium Tridentinum*, Sessio VII, *De Baptismo*, Canon I.)

BOOK REVIEW.

The Properties of the Bible. 40 pages. 25 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Die Hoffnung der Christen. 46 pages. 30 cts. (Concordia Publishing House St. Louis, Mo.)

The first of these two publications is an English essay by Prof. George Schroedel, and the second is a German essay by Pastor Ph. Roesel, both of which were read at the convention of the Oklahoma District held last May. Both essays were considered so valuable for our people that they have been printed and are now offered in pamphlet form. They ought to be brought to the attention also of our laymen. FRITZ.

Proceedings of the Eleventh Convention of the English District. 88 pages. 55 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These printed *Proceedings* contain an instructive essay by Dr. W. H. T. Dau on "The First Christian Church, according to the Acts of the Apostles." In addition, the usual reports and business transactions are given. FRITZ.

Handbook for Congregational Officers. By *Theo. Graebner*. 252 pages, 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ × 6 $\frac{1}{4}$. \$1.25. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The author gives space not only to the Board of Elders, the Board of Education, the Trustees, and the Board of Almoners, but also to the Committee on Finance, the Auditing Committee, the Publicity Committee, the Board of Ushers, and the Membership Committee. He also has a chapter on "Elections, Terms of Office, Retirement" and "The Congregational Officer's Attitude towards His Work." At a time when the opportunities of the Church are growing and its activities are varied and many, Professor Graebner's book is a valuable addition to the bibliography of practical theology. Nothing just like it has been published by us. FRITZ.

The Lutheran Principle of Indoctrination versus the Pedagogy of Modernism. By *P. E. Kretzmann*. 22 pages. 10 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Dr. Kretzmann had written the following articles: "Luther's Educational Ideals and Modern Vicious Tendencies, The Lutheran Principle of Indoctrination and the Naturalistic Educational Psychology, Modern Religious Pedagogy and the Lutheran Principle of Worship, The Social Theology and Modern Sunday-school Work." These articles had been printed in the *Lutheran Witness*, the *Lutheran School Journal*, the *Theological Monthly*, and the *Sunday-school Teachers' Quarterly*. They are now offered in one pamphlet, by resolution of our Synodical Sunday-school Board, which had also originally requested the writing of the articles. They are to expose and counteract the wrong pedagogical principles of the Modernists, the Evolutionists, and others of our day. Pastor Paul Koenig, chairman of the Synodical Board, says in a brief introduction: "To point out the dangers to our people in pulpit and pew, to emphasize again the principles according to which the Lutheran Church has successfully educated her youth for four hundred years, and to encourage all church-workers to be guided by these principles is the aim of this pamphlet." FRITZ.

Luther on Education. By *F. V. N. Painter, A. M.* 282 pages, 5¼×7½. \$1.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The following words of Professor Painter, written in the preface to his book, tell not only what the book is, but highly recommend it: "This little work illustrates the growth of an idea. It began with the translation of the *Letter to the Mayors and Aldermen of all the Cities of Germany in Behalf of Christian Schools*, of which a perusal a few years ago had led me to say in my *History of Education*: 'If we consider its pioneer character, in connection with its statement of principles and admirable recommendations, the address must be regarded as the most important educational treatise ever written.' The translation of the *Sermon on the Duty of Sending Children to School*, the most elaborate of Luther's educational writings, naturally followed as presenting more fully the great Reformer's views. The interest thus awakened led to an examination of all that he had written about education and to an attempt to arrange in a somewhat systematic form his educational opinions and principles. . . . The justification of the work must be found partly in the interest and value of Luther's views and partly in the relation of those views to educational progress. Though it is not generally recognized, yet Luther brought about as important a reformation in education as in religion. With his earnest nature and profound penetration he laid hold of fundamental facts and principles that are often neglected in the rapid movements of the present. The progress of our century in education—a progress that constitutes no small part of its preeminence—has its roots in the principles and labors of the German reformer. This fact, it is believed, renders the present work a not untimely contribution to our excellent and rapidly increasing educational literature." The book contains the following chapter heads: "Causes of the Reformation; The Papacy and Popular Education; Education before the Reformation; Luther; Luther on Domestic Training; Luther on Schools; Luther on Studies and Methods." Professor Painter's book is a book not only for the pastor and the teacher of the parish school, but also for the educated layman, and especially for all parents. The English translation of Luther's *Letter . . . in Behalf of Christian Schools* and his *Sermon on the Duty of Sending Children to School* alone is worth the price of the book. At the time of the writing of the book, F. V. N. Painter was professor of modern languages in Roanoke College. Our Concordia Publishing House has acquired the publication rights of Professor Painter's book. The book may well be kept in mind also when soon again many will be confronted by the question, What book shall I give as a Christmas gift?

F. RITZ.

1928 Concordia Christmas Greeting Cards. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These beautiful cards in six colors portray ten incidents in the birth and early life of the Savior, commented on in poems from the pen of Prof. W. G. Polack. They will be found very attractive. The publishers write: "Our day-schools and Sunday-schools will again have the exclusive right of sale. Each set of ten cards costs the school 15 cts. It is to be sold for 25 cts. . . . The cards are put up only in boxes of 25 packages. It should not be overlooked that post-cards this year need but one cent postage."

Convention Year-Book. 1928. *Erwin Umbach*, Editor. \$1.00. (Walther League, 6438 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill.)

In this beautifully printed and richly illustrated *Year-book* the reader is furnished much information on the activities of the Walther League. Perhaps the most valuable part of the publication consists of the addresses and especially the sermons which were delivered at the recent convention in Milwaukee.

The Christ of the Ages. By the *Rev. Harold Paul Sloan, D. D.* \$1.50. (Doubleday, Doran & Co.) 1928.

In this book the professor of systematic theology at Temple University gives a clarion call to arms against Modernism. "The Church again and again has challenged error and defeated it. The Church argued against Gnosticism; it argued against Arianism; it argued against Rome. The Church has never won one battle with a serious error by ignoring it. And the Church will not win its present battle against Modernism by ignoring it. Modernism ignored will corrupt Protestantism with its futile Socinian Christ, just as Unitarianism ignored did corrupt New England Congregationalism. Congregationalism failed because it had no effective organization by which to carry on the contest." The author proclaims in ringing words the glory of Jesus Christ, true God, the Savior of the world ("He yields His life a redemptive sacrifice for sin. . . . It is a tidal wave of redeeming grace, overflowing all the tides of sin. It is the inexhaustible love of God, brought to us in Messiah, Jesus, our Lord. It is God in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not reckoning unto us our sins"), points out the shallowness of ancient Modernism, from Ebionism, Arianism, etc., down to Unitarianism, and demands of the Church that it insist upon the withdrawal of the modern Modernists from its teaching and preaching offices. It is a pity that this call to arms makes so little of the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and makes so much of the Church itself. "Congregationalism failed because it had no effective organization by which to carry on the contest." Congregationalism failed because it laid aside the Word of God. The author does not know the Word of God as the means of grace, the power of God to win the Church's battles. He can define faith and creed without mentioning the Word. He bases his hope for victory on the voice of the Church. "Protestantism also, in practical fact, has had a double authority: the Scriptures and the interpretative authority of the Christian consensus. . . . Through the Church's testimony we believe in the historic Christ. . . . The Church is the one living voice that speaks back to our longing souls an infinite promise and answer. . . . His [Christ's] impact upon the world as mediated by His Church has changed the whole face of civilization. . . . The Church of Christ is a part of the total fact of Christ as redemptively conceived." There are a number of other wrong conceptions produced in the book. For instance: "Rome never denied the fundamental deposit of faith. . . . We are glad to-day that Martin Luther fought his fight. We are sorry he sometimes fought with passionate words; but no matter, we are glad he fought his fight." Yes, Luther at times grew most passionate. In dealing with the Jews and their denial of the deity of Christ, he wielded his battle-ax with mighty force. We wonder

what kind of words Luther would have used if these same Jews had set up as Christian preachers. We are not sorry that Dr. Sloan occasionally uses strong language over against these modern Christian Jews. He might have made it stronger. E.

The Bible, the Word of God. By *P. J. Hoekenga*. \$1.00. (Eerdmans-Publishing Co.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In these days of uncertainty and hostility concerning the Bible and its meaning for men it is distinctly refreshing and encouraging to find a book which unhesitatingly and unequivocally defends the inspiration of the Bible. The author was a pastor of the Christian Reformed Church, his last field of labor being in California. He sets forth, in a clear and convincing manner, the origin of the Bible, its purpose, its use, its defense, its study. Although the form is that of addresses or sermons rather than that of an essay or treatise, the reader will welcome even the occasional repetitions of thought, for they enable one to keep the author's object in mind from beginning to end. K.

Making the Bible Desired. By *Dorothy Dickinson Barbour*. \$1.50. (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)

This is a typical Modernistic book, consistent in its entire presentation, with social theology as its basis. Of the essential teaching of Christianity, of the redemption through the atoning work of Christ, there is not even a faint indication. The *proton pseudos* of the book is contained in its introduction, where Luther Allan Weigle refers to a slogan coined by Dr. Timothy Tingfang Lew, Dean of the Theological College in Yenching University, China: "Let us agree to disagree, but resolve to love." That this slogan is essentially at variance with both Scripture and common sense seemed to occur neither to the gentleman who first coined the phrase nor to the author of this book. Any one who feels that the warnings issued in this periodical are far-fetched and desires first-hand information on the social theology actually at work in so-called Christian schools will find ample opportunity for study in this book. K.

A Handbook of Christian Psychology. By *Leander S. Keyser*. \$1.50. (The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Keyser, of the theological faculty of Wittenberg College and Seminary (Hamma Divinity School) of Springfield, O., is favorably known for his books in the field of Christian polemics and Christian evidence. In the present book he is venturing into a field with which a teaching experience of many years has made him familiar. The entire presentation shows the able teacher, who is familiar with the field and handles his subject with fluency and precision. But without desiring in any manner to accuse the author of conscious synergistic teaching, the present reviewer feels that the section on the "Psychical Aspects of the Order of Salvation" is not in keeping with the clear presentation of Holy Writ and the Lutheran writers on systematic theology. We dare not even hint at intermediate steps in the actual process of conversion, for we know

full well that the parts of regeneration, or conversion, enumerated by Luther in the Third Article, vocation, enlightenment, coming to faith, are simultaneous. By avoiding an overemphasis on logical steps, we shall at least avoid also the semblance of teaching a gradual conversion. K.

The Ministry of Love. By *Foster U. Gift, D. D.* 145 pages, 5×7½. 75 cts. (The United Lutheran Publication House, Philadelphia, Pa.)

"Christian love," says the author, "is more than a mere pious sentiment or a subjective attitude. The impression that it is nothing more than a suitable subject for pious contemplation or a kind of other-world attitude can and must be corrected. It is necessary to make it clear that Christian love, if released, is a dynamic which becomes exceedingly powerful in human affairs and that as such a dynamic it has no substitute. It becomes the duty of the Church to show that such love not only expresses itself in loving service, but that it eagerly seeks outlets for self-expression." Dr. Gift, as may be readily expected, gives special attention to the merciful activities of his own church-body, the United Lutheran Church. FRITZ.

The Ethics of the Gospel and the Ethics of Nature. By *H. H. Scoullard.* \$3.50. (Doubleday, Doran Co.)

The field of Biblical ethics has not received very much attention in our circles as a separate study. We have been satisfied with including it in a number of other departments of theology. Nevertheless, it is of value for a person to take up the study by itself; for the field of ethics in general, and that of Biblical ethics in particular, is not only most interesting from the standpoint of systematic study, but it also has a decided practical value. The author in this instance has made every effort to keep his presentation in harmony with the fundamental Bible truths. He has not always succeeded in doing so. But his study is nevertheless of great value to every student in the field, since it evaluates with some degree of accuracy the principles of Biblical ethics, especially in the form presented in the conversations and sermons of Jesus. The book is worth reading most carefully, and it will most likely prove a valuable reference book in the library of the average pastor. K.

Missions in a Changing World. By *W. W. Pinson, D. D.* 212 pages. \$1.00. (Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn.)

The author of this book served for twelve years as the general secretary of the Board of Missions, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In this volume he endeavors to show what the Church needs to-day in order that its missionary message may be brought with new force to the heathen nations of this continually changing world. He brings many statistics, quotations, etc. However, one misses direct and definite statements that indicate the author's own clear vision in separating the spheres of Church and State, as to the fundamental differences between the denominations, unionism and zeal engendered from real love of the truth, and a glowing faith in Jesus Christ as the world's Redeemer. Such books as this, while they are not without value also for us, only help to impress again and again the fact that our Church unmistakably has a vital duty in showing the world how to do mission-work in the true spirit of Christ. W. G. P.

The Hymnody of the Christian Church. By *Louis F. Benson, D.D.*
310 pages. \$2.00. (George H. Doran & Co., New York.)

This book, prepared by the well-known authority on hymnology, is based upon his addresses given in the annual "Stone Lectures" at Princeton Seminary. The author has made valuable contributions to the subject in his *Studies in Familiar Hymns* and in his articles on the "Development of the English Hymn in Use and Worship." In this volume Dr. Benson holds that the transition from the purely Jewish psalmody to Christian song actually occurred at the institution of the Lord's Supper, "when they had sung an hymn," and it is his aim to show that St. Paul was a leader in advocating "the liberty of Christian praise," that he precipitated the issue, "Psalms vs. Hymns." "He traces this question, that has so often and lamentably divided the Christian Church through the Greek Settlement, the Latin Settlement, the Lutheran Settlement, the Calvinistic Settlement, and Dr. Watts's Settlement, and studies the situation as it is at present. There are discerning articles on the contents of the hymns, the purity of the texts, a study of the various forms, coming down to the Gospel hymns of Moody and Sankey, and the recent degenerative tendencies in direct imitation of secular music and ragtime. The book concludes with a ringing call to maintain the high spiritual character and ministry of the hymns."

W. G. P.

Child Psychology and Religious Education. By *Dorothy F. Wilson.*
\$1.75. (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)

It is too bad that Canon B. H. Streeter suggested the publishing of this book after it was submitted as a thesis for the research degree of Bachelor of Letters at Oxford University. There is a latent bit of sentiment connected with Oxford University from the days of Wyclif which does not like to be disillusioned. But how can a book which is based upon a falsehood contain truth? The author denies the inborn sinfulness of children, and therefore the rest of her book rests upon false premises. She also denies the truth of the inspired account in the Old Testament, and therefore there is no certainty in her whole presentation. A few paragraphs are valuable for the hints which they offer concerning child life and child experiences; but as for the rest, the book is an *abschreckendes Beispiel*. We are constrained to look for positive truth elsewhere.

K.

Romanism. By *Wm. C. Irvine.* 3 cts.; dozen, 25 cts. (The Lutheran Tract Society, Burlington, Iowa.)

"Cardinal Manning once said, 'The Catholic Church is either the masterpiece of Satan or the kingdom of God.' Unquestionably it is not the latter." This is the opening statement of this vigorous little pamphlet on Romanism. It cannot be denied that the subject is timely. There is one statement which ought to be corrected. On page 6, where the errors of the Roman Church are enumerated and the Bible-passages cited which show the respective teachings to be false, we read, "7. Against the Mass: Against the personal presence in the sacramental elements: John 6, 35. 63; Acts 3, 21." Apparently the writer is denying the real presence of our Lord's body and blood in the Eucharist. This statement ought to have been deleted.