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The Means of Grace.

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

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“Although the work of redemption was accomplished on the cross and forgiveness of sin acquired, yet it cannot come to us in any other way than through the Word. For what would we otherwise know about it that such a thing was accomplished or was to be given us if it were not presented by preaching, or the oral Word? . . . Or how can they apprehend and appropriate to themselves the forgiveness except they lay hold of, and believe, the Scriptures and the Gospel?” (Large Catechism. *Triglotta*, 759.) Therefore Paul calls the preached Word the means of salvation. 1 Cor. 15, 1. 2. But if it brings us salvation, it also brings us forgiveness; for salvation and forgiveness are the same thing. Yes, the Lord directly regards His Word as the bearer of His all-sufficient merits. For instead of saying: “Ye are clean through the obedience by which I made satisfaction to the Father,” He says: “Ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.” John 15, 3.

But where there is forgiveness through the merits of Christ, there is life. Titus 3, 7; Rom. 6, 20. [*Note.* — “For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.” Small Catechism. *Triglotta*, 557.] Therefore the Lord also calls His Word the bearer of life. John 5, 24: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life.” And John 8, 51: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death.” Yes, John 6, 63 He declares: “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” And John 12, 50: The Word of My Father “is life everlasting. Whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak.” [*Note.* — *Ἡ ἐντολή τοῦ πατρὸς ζωὴ αἰώνιος ἐσιν* does not mean: “He that keepeth the Law of the Father hath life everlasting,” but according to

BOOK REVIEW.

Register zu Dr. F. Piepers Dogmatik. By *E. Eckhardt*. 146 pages, 6¼×9. \$2.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This index volume to Dr. Pieper's *Dogmatics* (three volumes) is a real necessity. It very much increases the usefulness of the original work. First of all, Dr. Pieper's books should be read and thoroughly studied; secondly, however, they should also serve the purpose of a ready reference work in the pastor's library. This latter purpose the books could not well serve without an index volume. We therefore are much indebted to the Rev. E. Eckhardt for having prepared it. Our knowledge of his scholarship and painstaking attention to details persuades us to believe that the work has been well done. Those pastors who have the original three volumes on their bookshelves need no encouragement to purchase this index volume; they have been waiting for it. It will, however, not be amiss to use this opportunity again to call the attention of those who are not the happy possessors of Dr. Pieper's *Dogmatics* to its great excellency and usefulness. The Church cannot fulfil its purpose in this world if it has not an indoctrinated ministry. A pastor should first of all carefully and prayerfully study the Bible. For such study a work on dogmatics does not offer, or pretend to be, a substitute; it simply presents the great Bible truths in systematic form. The need and value of doing this is apparent. At the same time a work on dogmatics throws the search-light of Scriptures on old and modern heresies and shows up their soul-destroying errors. All this is very much needed in these days of general apostasy. If our Lutheran Church is to remain true to its heritage and is to continue to serve its purpose in this world, its ministers must have a thorough and accurate knowledge of Bible truth and must be great doctrinal preachers. "If ye continue in My Word," says Christ, "then are ye My disciples indeed, and ye shall know the Truth; and the Truth shall make you free."

FRITZ.

German Gospel Sermons with English Outlines. By *Adam Fahling*. 428 pages, 6¼×9¼. \$3.00. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

As we paged through this new book of sermons on the standard pericopes, we found the sermons to be textual and Christocentric, the language simple, and the presentation clear. A new feature in this book is that to the sermons, which are given in German, an English outline of the German sermon is added. This arrangement will benefit those preachers who cannot use both languages equally well.

FRITZ.

The World Is Our Field. A Missionary Survey. By *F. J. Lankenau*. 279 pages, 5¼×7¼. \$1.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These essays were originally written for the *Lutheran Pioneer*. At that time we read and enjoyed them. In this book they have been considerably expanded. The essays contain a wealth of interesting and stimulating material, as the following chapter-heads show: Progress during the Centuries; Unoccupied Mission-fields; Africa; India; China; Korea, or

Chosen; Japan, or Nippon; Farther India; Siam, French Indo-China, and the Malay Peninsula; The Asiatic Near East; Malaysia, the Philippine Islands, Australia, New Zealand; The Pacific Islands; South America; Central America and the West Indies; Mexico, Alaska; The Indians of the United States; Orientals in the United States; The Negro in the United States; Foreign-speaking Peoples in Our Country; The Migrant Groups; The Southern Mountaineers; The Mormons; Missionary Conservation; The City Missionary Problem; The Old Frontier and the New Frontier; The Country Problem; Safeguarding the Heritage for Our Children; Institutional Mission-work; A Final Appeal. The number of pictures and graphs add much to the value of the book. It is much to be desired that this book be given a wide circulation among our Christian people; for we believe it would help much to arouse our Christians to their missionary opportunities and their responsibilities and increase both their prayers and their gifts for the expansion of the Church of Jesus Christ.

FRTZ.

Die Kraft des Evangeliums. By *Dr. F. Pieper*. 48 pages. 20 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This tract gives in a somewhat abbreviated form the contents of a paper read by Dr. Pieper at the convention of the Alberta and British Columbia District in 1927. The venerable Doctor treats the following propositions: The Gospel assures us of the grace of God and of our salvation; the Gospel brings about our sanctification and good works; especially does it also persuade Christians to make use of the privilege of prayer; the Gospel destroys all false doctrine; the Gospel strengthens Christians to bear the cross; the Gospel takes away the terrors of death; the Gospel enables Christians joyfully to await the Day of Judgment; because the Gospel is such a precious treasure, we pray God that He may keep it for us in all its truth and purity.

FRTZ.

Search the Scriptures! VII. *The Most Beautiful Passages in the Old Testament Poetical Books.* 32 pages. 15 cts. **VIII. *Christ in the Old Testament.*** 32 pages. 15 cts. By *Prof. Paul E. Kretzmann, Ph. D., D. D.* (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These two numbers continue the *Search the Scriptures* series. The titles are self-explanatory. It is a hopeful sign in these sad days of apostasy that our young people especially are taking an interest in Bible study.

FRTZ.

Concordia Collection of Sacred Choruses and Anthems. 8. *Spirit of God.* 9 pages. 9. *Praise the Lord.* 7 pages. 10. *Love Divine.* 13 pages. 20 cts. each. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.) Specify "Concordia Collection" and order by number.

Lovely Voices of the Sky. Christmas Song. By *James Raymond Duane.* 7 pages. 50 cts. (Published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These musical compositions of moderate difficulty for church choirs contain also solo parts for various voices.—*Lovely Voices of the Sky* is a Christmas song for soprano.

FRTZ.