
Though stemming from a preceding century, this volume deserves to become a companion of Lutheran ministers today and tomorrow. The work is organized in the form of brief discussions or explications of one or more Scripture references each, and each one is prefaced by a prayer in which the pastor speaks in the first person. The discussions are grouped in seven chapters on phases of the pastor's call and calling. The Scriptural focus parallels an unswerving directive toward serving people. The discussions are comprehensive, but they are also remarkably incisive in reaching into the heart of a pastor's weaknesses, temptations, and fears. This is a good handbook of the pastoral office, short as it is; but more, it is a manual of the pastor's personal devotions. This reviewer would suggest an edition in a more durable binding.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

THE LUTHERAN PARISH IN AN URBANIZED AMERICA (with Special Reference to the Missouri Synod). Edited by Ross P. Scherer. Fifteenth Yearbook. River Forest, Ill.: Lutheran Education Association, 7400 Augusta St., 1958. xii and 112 pages. Paper. $2.00 net.

This 1958 yearbook presents something unique to the members of the LEA and to the church at large. This study, which was ably conducted and in greater part written by Ross Scherer of Valparaiso University, is a semipopular contribution to the area known as "parish sociology." It is directed to orienting the reader to the environmental situations in which the corporate witness of the congregation and the individual testimony of the Christian go on.

For many years the Missouri Synod was largely rural. In the double decade from 1936—1955 the proportion of congregations listed as urban (in places of 2,500 and over) changed from about 40 to 55 per cent; the proportion of baptized urban membership changed from about 60 to 73 per cent. Nor is this all that is involved in the changing scene. The nature of urban civilization and its effects on kind and quality of personal and social relationships should be of concern to the church, the urban "way of life," which makes the church's approach to the individual man difficult. Christian congregations have the problem of transcending provincialisms of ethnic, racial, and class backgrounds in order more jointly to bring the saving Gospel to the entire city of man.
The core of the study presents five intensive "case studies" of selected parishes. These profiles are realistic and portray clearly the problems and opportunities faced by these parishes. The reader will be able by analogy to place his own parish under analysis.

Pastors and church leaders who are aware of what the true situation is today in changing America will discover that this book speaks to their concern. Pastors and leaders who do not find this study relevant are either complacent or else plainly indifferent to the ever-changing challenges which confront the church. This study does not attempt to give all the answers, but it does assert that the church must be aware of what the community situation is and be ready to explore and evaluate further the church's involvement in the communities of modern man.

The concluding chapter as an epilog offers general guidance as to possible constructive ways in which our congregations can positively approach the national and local problems of changing communities, offering more effectively to urban man the changeless message of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Christ.

HARRY G. COINER


The author, a Roman Catholic, naturally states his case regarding Freemasonry against the background of his church. Nevertheless, his most vulnerable charge against Freemasonry is precisely the same which many Protestants, including Lutherans, and the Eastern Orthodox Church have expressed over and over again. The author begins his preface with the paragraph:

This book has been written to explain why the [Roman Catholic] Church has warned her sons against affiliating with the Masonic lodge since 1738. The Christian case against the lodge is conclusive. We need not prove the existence of a grand conspiracy in which American Freemasons participate, nor need we resort to the bag of old wives' tales which circulate among some Catholics. We will simply show that a Christian cannot divide his allegiance between Jesus Christ and the Grand Architect of the Universe.

The author never loses sight of this objective. Therefore he properly concludes his book with the paragraph:

Not the Grand Architect of the Universe but God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is our God. Not Hiram Abiff but Jesus Christ is our Saviour. Not by the mock death and resurrection rite of the Master Mason's degree but by the sacrament of baptism do we become children of God and heirs of heaven.

In the course of his argument the author discusses the following topics: American Freemasonry, origin of Masonry, Masonic initiation, Scottish and York rites, the Masonic religion, the Masonic oaths, anti-Catholicism
in American lodges, papal condemnations of the lodge, allied Masonic organizations, Latin and European Masonry, other forbidden secret societies, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox criticism of Masonry, Christianity and the lodge. An appendix contains an English translation of *Humanum genus* by Pope Leo XIII (1884). The book also provides an extensive bibliography representing both Masonic and non-Masonic authors as well as several helpful illustrations and a thorough index.

Not since the appearance of Theodore Graebner's, Walton Hannah's, and Hubert S. Box's criticisms of Freemasonry has so comprehensive a discussion of the unchristian features of Masonic ritualism appeared as we now possess in the well-written, well-organized, and well-documented book by William J. Whalen.

**Paul M. Bretschler**


This work, published already in 1930, has become somewhat of a classic. It deals, as the title indicates, with Puritan ideas, mainly theological, from the early 17th century to the middle of the 19th. The main features are there and the important names; the movements in the realm of thought stand out clearly; the author's style compels interest. Not all of the judgments voiced concerning Puritanism are just; Schneider, nevertheless, succeeds in showing its tremendous impact on the history of our country.

**Carl S. Meyer**


This book represents a revision of Sir Frederic Kenyon's outstanding contribution first published in 1895. It presents an astoundingly well-focused picture of the history behind the production of the Sacred Scriptures, written and printed in a style and format that elicits interest at every page. The text includes a discussion of Papyrus Bodmer, published in 1956, as well as a preview of the new English translation of the Sacred Scriptures sponsored by the Churches of Scotland and England.

**F. W. Danker**


This rather brief study defines and recommends the so-called "expository" method of the preaching of G. Campbell Morgan, one of the most popular evangelical preachers and Bible lecturers of England and America of a past generation. This method involves the use of Biblical sections in sequence under a quadruple repetition which Wagner summarizes as 1) survey, 2) condense, 3) expand, 4) dissect.

**Richard R. Caemmerer**

It is not unusual for a Roman Catholic priest to leave the priesthood and to suffer the reprisals of the hierarchy. Here Mr. McLoughlin gives his reasons for leaving the Franciscan Order and relates some of his experiences to show how Rome uses the threats of its legalistic theology to coerce its own members and its numerical strength in politics to persuade others. After 25 years in a Franciscan seminary and in the priesthood, Mr. McLoughlin turned from the contemplative mode of life of the Franciscan Order to the active mode of life of a busy executive. He is now the superintendent of St. Monica's Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz. Unlike Luther, he has not as yet learned the doctrine of justification by faith and enjoyed the comfort it gives to the persecuted. L. W. SPITZ


Pastors, church leaders, and lay people will welcome this introduction to an area in ferment. R. Park Johnson gives a capable presentation of the leading political, religious, and social paths by which the people of the Middle East have come to the present complex situation, and outlines the diverging roads open to them in the future. The Christian mission is described in its total setting. WILLIAM J. DANKER


At 29 Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the best-known men of our day. His successful application of a Ghandilike boycott of buses in Montgomery, Ala., has earned him this reputation. This book is the story of a significant event in contemporary history, required reading for those interested in acquiring some understanding of the problem of desegregation. It is informative, fair, objective, and breathes a spirit of Christian concern that one rarely encounters in contemporary literature.

There will always be those who insist that social action is not the business of the church. The reading of this volume will help in removing some of the glibness from such an assertion. It will also underline the inadequacy of the statement that the church has only the responsibility of "saving souls." Here we have a reminder that the object of God's redemption is the whole man.

Martin Luther King was able to include a Lutheran pastor, Robert Graetz (ALC), among those who stood up for justice and risked their lives that a minority race might begin to enjoy the full privileges of citizenship.

The author expresses the hope that the Negro may be God's instrument for giving Western civilization the new spiritual dynamic, which according to Arnold Toynbee, our society "so desperately needs to survive."
To become the instruments of a great idea is a privilege that God gives only occasionally. This is the opportunity that confronts the Negro, Dr. King believes. MARTIN H. SCHARLEMANN


This book attempts to show that "if our young people are properly taught in the churches, there is no possible excuse for losing their faith in college." The first chapter takes 13 facts from Genesis 1 and seeks to demonstrate that the findings of science are in harmony with them. In the process the author concludes that the days of Genesis are very short periods of time, separated by extremely long periods ("the days are the great breaks in the sequence of fossils"). The second chapter deals with prophetic accuracy and seeks to determine mathematically the possibilities of noninspired predictions. The possibilities are extremely remote. The third chapter shows mathematically the possibilities of Christ's fulfillment of all the prophecies. These again are very remote. The conclusion is that the Bible is God's message to man.

E. L. LUEKER


All relevant data concerning the Savior to be found in early non-canonical sources, information otherwise hard to come by, is here packed into a little more than 150 pages. The witness for the defense includes Tacitus, Josephus (including a discussion of the famous Slavonic passages), the Talmud, the cryptic Sator formula, and the uncanonical sayings of Jesus. The author concludes that all the extracanonical evidence confirms the picture of Jesus we find in the Gospels. The moral features of Christ are seen to predominate, reinforcing the impression of the weighty impact He made on His generation. The author believes that in not a few cases of the agrapha "we probably have his ipsissima verba." (Page 163)

FREDERICK W. DANKER


Christopher Dawson is a well-known Roman Catholic historian, philosopher, and writer. His Religion and Culture, published already in 1948 by Sheed and Ward, Inc., was the Gifford Foundation lectures. The Gifford Foundation demands that some aspects of natural theology be presented. It is this religious knowledge which Dawson sets forth in its relation to the pattern of a material way of life. He makes use of the findings of the history of comparative religion and of modern sociology and psychology. Modern civilization, he concludes, must undergo a pro-
found change in order to survive through a movement of spiritual integration, restoring the vital relationship between religion and culture.

**CARL S. MEYER**


"Dedicated to other parents for the prevention of parental delinquency," this is a book of surprising merit on character education. Here are not dry moral codes, killing rules, wearisome statistics, and abstract theories of education, but earnest simplicity and refreshing common sense, deep psychological insight and understanding of human development and needs.

The book is naturalistic in tenor, Deweyish in educational optimism, without criteria for the determination of "good" and "values" and without benefit of distinctively Christian basis and goals, means, and methods. However, pastors, teachers, and other leaders of parent groups in Christian churches will find in this book a rich and stimulating supply of discussion materials to underscore the power of parental example and to capitalize the simple formula "Live the virtues to which you would train your children."

Coming at a time of new emphasis on parental responsibility, this book merits a place in personal and congregational, college and seminary libraries. It should be read "by everyone to whom the life of a child is entrusted."

**A. G. MERKENS**


This chatty little volume of impressions expresses a good will toward America which, by and large, has been very good to the Thomist philosopher. He writes optimistically, makes passing comments on American problems of the race question and materialism, and characteristically feels that America's great need is "Christian philosophy." The reader should not expect that Maritain is a contemporary De Toqueville.

**RICHARD R. CAEMMERER**


Every cataloguer of religious books will find this a tool he consults frequently and with growing appreciation. It supplements and expands the general lists of subject headings used by most libraries. The detailed breakdown under certain specifically Roman entries will serve as a guide
to Protestant librarians for expanded treatment of their subject areas. The detailed guide for Thomas Aquinas, for example, might well serve as a model for librarians cataloguing books on Martin Luther. Many librarians not theologically trained will welcome the short explanatory notes on subject divisions and obscure terms. The long list of saints' names will be a boon to many. While the work is obviously most useful to Roman Catholics, it is a must tool for any library with a religious collection. 

EDGAR KRENTZ


The general synod of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) in May 1957 concerned itself with "Preaching." The brochure reproduces the three basic papers: "What and How Shall We Preach Today?" by Bishop Lilje; "Function and Promise of the Sermon" by Bishop Dietzfelbinger; and "How Does the Church of the Word Speak Today?" by Professor Mueller-Schwefe. Also summarized are expressions of participants in the discussion and closing remarks of the essayists. The essays reveal a remarkable combination of basic theology and practical concern; the discussion gives harrowing glimpses into a deterioration of the congregation as target for the preacher's Gospel. Anyone who can read German will profit also for the American situation; e.g., the nature of total communication in preaching, the relation of preaching to Sacrament.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


This slender book comprises lectures delivered at Southern Methodist University by a famous British Methodist, teacher, and preacher. The book is a good illustration of Sangster's accent on clarity. His initial chapters on "Believe in It" and "Keep to Centralities" are salutary in their emphasis on the Gospel as the essential of the sermon. His closing chapter, "Steep It in Prayer," is glowing and consistent with the emphases of his earlier volumes (cf. The Approach to Preaching). However, it could do more to emphasize that the Gospel gives power not only to the word which the preacher speaks to others but also to him for his own speaking. This is a useful "annual volume" for whetting a pastor's interest in his own preaching task.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER


Using a simple interview schedule the author studied four Birmingham parishes to aid in determining "the deeper, underlying, general causes
which bring about the unresponsiveness of the contemporary mind to the Christian message." The studies include brief sections on the composition of the congregation, its religious practices and beliefs, the congregation's view of its own role and that of its pastor, and how the members interpreted their position in a secular world. Because of the nature of the study the findings are quite objective and limited. The author's conclusions are critical of the "parish" concept in the contemporary world. He further documents the disastrous results which befall church and clergy when they are influenced too heavily by their environment and lose sight of their primary function. **David S. Schuller**


This book has a splendid design: to lead the reader through the entire Bible in one year setting before him connected sections of Scripture and providing brief interpretive paragraphs. The author's understanding of the Old Testament, in particular, varies from that of the average reader of the Bible and will probably puzzle rather than assist. Some of the inner and theological unities of the New Testament are not wholly apparent. John Marsh is a British evangelical who has been of great assistance in getting the studies of Lutheran students under way at Oxford. **Richard R. Caemmerer**


A professor of religion and another of philosophy join with the chairman of their department at Wagner College to produce a textbook for college courses in religion. They seek to be objective to the point of aiming at primary understanding and ability for discussion rather than religious commitment, through a "degree of objectivity appropriate to a serious study in the humanities." The divisional headings are: What Is Religion? What Is the Judeo-Christian Heritage? What Shall We Think About God, Man, and the Church Today? What Is the Christian Answer to the Problems of Our Age? How Should Religion Be Expressed in Personal Living? How Should Religion Be Expressed in Collective Living? This structure provides a remarkably comprehensive discussion of basic issues. The philosophical questions are treated ably, and many developments in sections Two and Three are satisfying. Lutheran orientation is carefully avoided, with the possible exception of the discussion of freedom (p. 328). Least satisfying, to this reviewer, was the second section, which presents the critical reconstruction of the Biblical writings, especially the Old Testament, as an established rather than hypothetical one, suggests Jer. 31:29-34 as a display of shift of emphasis from a collective to an individual relationship with God, assumes a minimal concern
in the Old Testament for the after-life and seems to identify "breath of life" with the soul (p. 114), is quite silent on the Old Testament teachings of God as Judge and the goal of human righteousness, is silent on the Virgin Birth, and seems to minimize the structure of fellowship in worship (p. 273). On the other hand this reviewer found the effort to restate Biblical thinking in terms of the contemporary hearer interesting (e.g., "predicament of self-centeredness," p. 213). Minor balks occurred at the suggestion that Eleanor is of Semitic origin (p. 104); that the birth of Christ is A. D. 7 (p. 149); that rephaim means "shades" (p. 123), and that Gen. 25:8 suggests that "spirits of the departed gathered" in She'ol. The bibliographies are very good for their purpose; some misprints: Oesterly (p. 457); Deismann (p. 460); Algernussen (p. 462); A. Pike (p. 465); Myrdall (p. 467). This is not merely a good textbook but a source of information to every Christian teacher seeking insight into the community of culture and thought which is the target of his task.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH.


To the ever-lengthening shelf of volumes on the family comes another study, which causes one to inquire rather critically about the contribution of this book. Its table of contents is similar to that of many others. This book, however, makes a unique contribution through its "integrated" approach. Dr. Clemens, who is the director of the Marriage Counseling Center at Catholic University, draws most heavily from the writings of sociologists but reaches into other disciplines as well. At many points the author's Roman Catholic bias deepens his insight into marriage and love. At other times — when dealing, for example, with family size and the rhythm method — the moral theologians dictate the conclusions before the empirical studies are consulted. It is, however, a solid work. In a day of rapidly shifting family patterns, there is something challenging for anyone in the reading of the final section of each chapter where the author relates the problem of that chapter to the "Divine Plan." Even though it draws more heavily upon Pius XII than St. Paul, the book could serve as a model for a way of integrating the marriage literature of today into a particular theological or philosophical frame. DAVID S. SCHULLER


From his broad background as a student of marriage and family problems throughout the world, Mace writes his latest book. Because he believes that "many husbands and wives make the mistake of expecting too much early in marriage and then of expecting too little later on," he addresses himself to couples of all ages. The author's recent experience
in magazine writing is apparent in his clear, conversational style. He uses
an organizational device of placing his material under units of five—
five basic principles, five major adjustments, five types of difficult partners,
and five perplexing problems. The author appeals throughout for the
increased use of marital counseling services where problems become acute.
His book could well stabilize a couple drifting into a potentially serious
problem. The pastor will find it necessary to interpret the situation verti-
cally from a more Gospel-centered orientation.  DAVID S. SCHULLER

*THE DEATH OF CHRIST.* By John Knox. New York and Nashville:
Abingdon Press, 1958. 189 pages. Cloth. $2.75.

John Knox's most recent book gives attention to three facets of his
theme: the external circumstances of Jesus' death, its meaning for Him,
and finally its meaning for the early church. The first section is very brief.

The author pleads in the introduction that the third section is most
important, and yet the bulk of the book is devoted to the meaning of the
mission and death for Jesus Himself. Did our Lord regard Himself as
Messiah and Son of Man? Knox is firmly convinced that He did not.

When the third section is reached, the best in the book, we are still
disappointed. Christ and cross are certainly central to the church's kerygma,
but according to Knox the victory and sacrifice themes of the New Testa-
ment (death as the revelation of love is not Biblical for him) are
mythological symbols that seem only the church's creation. For all of
Knox's criticisms of Bultmann in a worthwhile appendix discussion he
would seem to be the American Bultmann. Here is similar brilliance
and error, great stimulation and thrilling exegetical insights but also
dangerous dogmatism.

Knox's personal conclusions are a vague Christian existentialism that
sees the cross as symbol of abominable depths and goodness far above us.
The most positive assertion is this: "Accepting the Cross does not mean
understanding it." (Page 168)  HENRY W. REIMANN

*DAS PROBLEM DER PARUSIEVERZOEGERUNG IN DEN SYNOP-
TISCHEN EVANGELIEN UND IN DER APOSTELGESCHICHTE.*
Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft 22.
By Erich Grässer. Berlin: Verlag Alfred Töpelmann, 1957. viii and
234 pages. DM 34.

The basic thesis of this book is that Jesus sponsored the hope of an
imminent parousia of the Son of Man. The early Christian community
was disappointed in its expectation and attempted to provide theological
solutions.

This book aims to solve some of the problems associated with the
diverse and apparently contradictory elements in the eschatological portions
of the synoptists. Graesser maintains that in the mind of Jesus the end
was imminent and that He went to Jerusalem not to die but to prepare
for the parousia of the Son of Man. The Sermon on the Mount is closely related to this early expectancy of the parousia. Elements in synoptic sayings which appear to suggest a delay between Jesus' death and resurrection and the parousia are to be attributed to the church's disappointment. Although the author presents a tightly argued case, his application of Formgeschichte methodology does not always appear consistently plausible. If, e.g., it is doubtful that the early community should have "degraded" Jesus to Rabbi (p. 70), why should Mark 13: 32 be a product of the community (pp. 81 ff.), especially in view of the θεός ἄνθρωπος development (p. 79)? But if the main thesis is weakened by an undue skepticism regarding the historicity of the sayings ascribed to Jesus, the author has succeeded in sharpening the points of the problem suggested by the statements concerning the imminence as well as the delayed expectation of the parousia. The book abounds with interpretive insights which, if approached critically, cannot fail to stimulate and spark further appreciation of the Biblical material. The discussion on the Lord's Prayer, e.g. (pp. 95—113), is particularly instructive. No serious study in the area of N. T. eschatology can ignore this penetrating analysis, and for many other areas of N. T. exegesis it is indispensable. F. W. DANKER

BOOKS RECEIVED

(The mention of a book in this list acknowledges its receipt and does not preclude further discussion of its contents in the Book Review section.)


Astrological Keywords. Compiled from leading authorities by Manly P. Hall. New York: Philosophical Library, 1959. 229 pages. Cloth. $3.00.


