

CONCORDIA
THEOLOGICAL
QUARTERLY

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CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LUTHERAN
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA 46825

Volume 45 Numbers 1-2

JANUARY — APRIL 1981

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Book Comments

THE SACRIFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF JESUS' ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. By Tibor Horvath. Philosophical Library, New York. Cloth. \$8.95. 100 pages.

After analyzing nine words or phrases used in the NT for sacrifice, Horvath traces through the various NT authors the concepts of Jesus' life and death, the life and death of Jesus' followers, and the Last Supper together with Eucharistic celebration. A final section relates the Eucharistic words to Jesus' death, the Passover, and Qumran. The author, a Jesuit priest, makes use of the most recent research. Succinct and compact, this study can lead the pastor to see the atonement as the center of NT theology. This book will probably not receive the attention it deserves.

WHEN GOD BECAME MAN. By George Lawler. Moody Press, Chicago, 1978. 154 pages. Paper. No price given.

Christ's preexistence, deity, incarnation, crucifixion and exaltation are the chapter themes which develop exegetically, devotionally, and occasionally polemically Paul's ode in Philippians 2:5-11. The Reformed blurring of incarnation and humiliation prevents the author from recognizing that the subject of Paul's hymn is not the preincarnate Son of God, but Jesus, who in His human nature by virtue of the incarnation possesses God's attributes but conceals them during the period of His humiliation.

THE ARAB MIND. By Raphael Patai. Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, 1976. Paper. 376 Pages. \$5.95.

This is a provocative study of Arab values prepared by a Jewish scholar, born in Hungary, educated in Germany, resident in Israel, and now teaching in the United States, who contends that child-rearing customs provide a clue to the Semitic psyche. While it is not the last word on Arab manners and mores, Patai's volume is certainly an essential part of the current "quest for the key to Arab character."

THE VENTURE OF ISLAM: CONSCIENCE AND HISTORY IN A WORLD CIVILIZATION. By Marshall G. S. Hodgson. Phoenix Books, published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1975 ff. 3 vols. 1,407 Pages. Paper. \$7.98 each.

For many years the late Marshall G. S. Hodgson was Professor and Chairman of the Committee on Social Thought and Professor of History at the University of Chicago. Just prior to his death in 1968 he summed up a life-time of thought and research concerning Islamic Civilization in this trilogy. Written with special attention to the intellectual and spiritual values of Islamic civilization, though not neglecting politics, biography, diplomacy, geography, economics, these volumes have a special pertinence as we enter the 1980's. The recent resurgence of Islam lends renewed credence to Hodgson's contention (a sort of thesis on which his entire work rests) that "the most significant element of the Islamic heritage now is religion and the religious conscience." This three-volume survey is a *must* for all serious students of Muslim faith and life.

INSPIRATION. By Archibald A. Hodge and Benjamin B. Warfield, with an introduction by Roger R. Nicole. Baker, Grand Rapids, 1979 (reprint of the 1881 edition). 108 pages. Paperback. \$2.95.

The struggle over Scripture's inspiration, authority, and inerrancy racked nineteenth-century Presbyterianism with considerable furor. Archibald Hodge and Warfield were both students of Charles Hodge, father of the former. Later they also served as professors of systematic theology at Pittsburgh and Princeton respectively. Their position in favor of verbal, plenary inspiration is summed up in this statement: "The historical faith of the Church has always been that all the affirmations of Scripture of all kinds, whether of spiritual doctrine or duty, or of physical or historical fact, or of psychological or philosophical principle, are without error when the *ipsissima verba* of the original autographs are ascertained and interpreted in their natural and intended sense" (p. 28). Rejecting notions that explain inspiration in terms of a mechanical sort of dictation, and the like, the authors without actually attempting to unravel the miracle of inspiration itself placed heavy emphasis upon God's divine superintendence over the holy writers, who otherwise wrote out of the experience of their own lives and the revelation given them by the Holy Spirit. A number of short appendices, reprints of articles that first appeared in answer to critics of the original main essay that constitutes the book, are included. Roger Nicole has likewise appended bibliographical lists which can be of value to the student of Warfield's and Charles Hodge's work on Scripture, as well as of the Westminster Confession's stance on the subject of inspiration and inerrancy.

LECTURES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. By Henry C. Thiessen. Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids. 450 pages. Cloth. \$13.95.

The eighteenth printing in thirty years is now revised to include a chapter on the Holy Spirit's work along with more contemporary theological references. As the sacraments are viewed as ordinances and millennialism is espoused, along with a peculiar view of the atonement which benefits unbelievers in delaying their final execution, the book will not directly serve the purposes of Lutheran theology.

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. By Rene Pache. Translated by J. D. Emerson. Moody Press, Chicago, 1978. 223 pages. Paper.

A direct, well-outlined, sermonically styled, well-documented study on the Holy Spirit sets forth dispensationalism, supports Zionism with a universal conversion of the Jews, and treats the Spirit's indwelling as something other than faith.

THE GREAT UNVEILING: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF REVELATION. By W. Graham Scroggie. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 140 pages. \$7.95.

This book contains the author's unaltered lecture notes on the Book of Revelation. Topics include the author of Revelation; the relation between Revelation and the rest of Scripture; Christ as the central subject of the book; the interpretation of the book; discussion of the various interpretive approaches to Revelation. This book is intended as a study tool for teachers and students, and contains over 200 study questions at the close of the book. The discussion is superficial and given from a dispensationalist, millennialist standpoint.

EXPERIENCES OF GOD. By Jurgen Moltmann. Fortress Press,

Philadelphia. 1980. 83 pages. Paper. \$3.95.

Experiences of God is Moltmann's own personal and hence popularly written exposition of his theology of hope. Most of the weight here is placed on God's suffering, i.e., divine participation in all human misery. This has no reference to the older Lutheran concept of God's suffering and dying by virtue of the incarnation, though Moltmann borrows heavily from Lutheran terminology. Positively, Moltmann has alerted theology to a real pathos in God, who does not remain detached from the human condition. Negatively, it is impossible to see how his "incarnational" theology can be regarded as anything but a form of pantheism.

THE FRIENDSHIP FACTOR: HOW TO GET CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE YOU CARE FOR. By Alan Loy McGinnis. Augsburg Publishing House. Minneapolis, 1979. 192 pages. Paper.

This is a relatively good book to read to give one clues on how to deal with oneself as well as with one's friends. McGinnis writes in an easy style. A good part of the book deals with various ways to communicate effectively, and this discussion seems to be needed since communication seems to be a growing area of concern for many people. He divides the book into sections dealing with such things as deepening one's relationships, and handling negative emotions without destroying a relationship.

ANALYSIS OF THE INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION OF JOHN CALVIN. By Ford Lewis Battles. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1980. 421 pages. Paper. \$10.95.

Battles died before his *Analysis* went to press. Having translated the *Institutes*, he must be recognized as one of history's foremost Calvin experts. The *Analysis* is a detailed outline of Calvin's *Institutes* so arranged that specific doctrines can easily be found. Calvin was an orderly, well-organized, and nearly cold systematizer. Calvin can speak about God abstractly and can make justification but one point in his theology, whereas for Luther all theology is Christ, atonement, and justification. Battles places Calvin with Paul in believing the "Real Presence" and calls Luther's position "corporealization" (p. 380).

PREFACE TO PASTORAL THEOLOGY. By Seward Hiltner. Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1979. 244 pages. Paper. \$4.95

First published in 1958, this is a reprint of what might well be subtitled: "Prolegomena to an Apologetic for Pastoral Theology." Working from the thesis "... that pastoral theology is a formal branch of theology, resulting from study of Christian shepherding, that it is just as important as biblical or doctrinal or historical theology, and that it is no less the concern of the minister of the local church than of a specialist," the author uses the concept of "shepherding" and functions embraced in that term, such as, "healing," "sustaining," and "guiding" to expand upon that thesis. To illustrate Hiltner cites case studies from Icobad Spencer's *A Pastor's Sketches*, first published in 1851. Dealt with also are "communicating" and "organizing", which, strictly speaking, are not part of "shepherding" (*per* the working definition) but are definitely important in the conduct of the office. As a theological discipline, pastoral theology is of comparatively recent origin. Of interest is Hiltner's historical overview and his demonstration of pastoral theology's rightful and legitimate place among the theological disciplines and, more importantly, its contribution to effective ministry. This book is imminently worthwhile for those engaged in pastoral ministry. Its modest price makes it accessible to all.

WRESTLIN' JACOB: A PORTRAIT OF RELIGION IN THE OLDSOUTH.

By Erskine Clarke. John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1979. 207 pages. Paper. \$6.95.

A church historian and Dean of Students at Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, Dr. Erskine Clarke has provided a well-researched and carefully-written account of the efforts of white masters to bring the Gospel to black slaves in the ante-bellum South, both in the country (Liberty County, Georgia) and the city (Charleston, South Carolina).

THE ENCOURAGER. By D. Elton Trueblood. Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1978. 144 pages. Cloth.

A collection of twenty-six quarterly letters written by Dr. Trueblood between June 1969 and March 1978 and sent to four thousand "Christian workers" who are joined in an expression of "new Evangelicalism" (p. 140) under the name "Yokefellows International" (Phil 4:3). The letters are meant to offer encouragement (I Thess. 5:11) to perplexed "evangelical Christians" who face various problems in the world today.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY. By William Wells. Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1979. 184 pages. Paper. \$4.25

A rapid-fire review of theology, church history, and Christian living within the space of 184 pages and under the rubric of "Evangelical Christianity," which is defined as: (1) confidence in the Bible, (2) commitment to Jesus Christ, and (3) pursuit of a holy life (pp. 10-11). The book is light reading for beginners who are seeking an introduction to the "evangelical family."

A PROFILE FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE. By Gene A. Getz. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 1978. 200 pages. Paper. \$1.95.

This Bible study of Paul's letter to Titus takes a novel approach and is a rather complete treatment, but this does not compensate for its theological deficiency with regard to baptismal regeneration and its ambivalence with regard to the office of the ministry.

CREATIVE STEWARDSHIP. Richard B. Cunningham. Abingdon, Nashville, 1979. 128 pages. Paper.

This book is one of a series edited by Lyle E. Schaller entitled Creative Leadership Series. It contains some challenging concepts and some very practical ideas with regard to stewardship, but is somewhat weak on the primary motivation of Christians, the love of God for man in Christ.

THE ELDERS HANDBOOK. By Berghoef and DeKoster. Christians Library Press, Grand Rapids, 1979. 303 pages. \$12.95.

This book operates with a concept of church and ministry which is foreign to most if not all Lutheran congregations. It defines a function and role of the "ruling elders" in which there is no clear distinction between that role and that of the pastor, or to put it another way, the role of the called pastor and the ruling elder is virtually indistinguishable in this text. Its theology is Reformed and its polity is that suggested by Calvin, so its use to Lutherans would be questionable at best.

INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. By Louis Berkhoff. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Paper. 200 pages. \$5.95.

This reprint of the prolegomena section of Berkhoff's 1932 classical Reformed *Systematic Theology* is helpful for its orderly style; but it puts forth faith and the Holy Spirit as internal testimonies of the truth, subjectivism intolerable for Lutherans.

TO DIE IS GAIN. By Johann Christoph Hampe. Translated by Margaret Kohl. John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1979. 145 pages. Paper. \$4.95.

The author recounts the testimonies of people who have “experienced” death and have come back to tell about it. For the skeptic, this major portion of the book is of questionable value. One might also question the interpretations that Hampe gives and the conclusions that he draws in the final two chapters. Theologically, Hampe’s implied “universalism” that negates the necessity of Christ’s atoning work is especially disturbing. On the other hand, Hampe challenges some of the traditional fears, presuppositions, and definitions concerning death and dying. The reader will find much of value in the first two chapters, in which the author draws together an excellent compend of reactions to death from a number of different disciplines and viewpoints.

PRAYER FOR TROUBLED TIMES. By Jay E. Adams. Presbyterian and Reformed, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 1979. 64 pages. Paper.

The petitioner is led to articulate the problem, praying for help, but is never brought to the foot of the Cross, the empty tomb, or any of the objective promises of God.

THE UNITY OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS. By William Henry Green. Reprint. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1979. 583 Pages. Paper. \$9.95.

In this thorough study, first published in 1895, the great Princeton scholar worked his way through the entire book of Genesis, meeting head on and disproving point by point the higher critical arguments for the documentary hypothesis of multiple and developmental authorship. Although this argument conclusively dispensed with only the literary criticism of the nineteenth century, it has yet to be refuted by the higher critics. They have since tried to shore up their shaky theory with newer methods, such as form criticism, redaction criticism, and structuralism. But Professor Green has so effectively demolished every piece of the original foundation that everything subsequent is nothing but castle-building in thin air. Baker Book House is to be highly commended for reprinting this classic defense of the Mosaic authorship of Genesis, together with Green’s companion volume, *The Higher Criticism of the Pentateuch*, which is large in scope but less detailed.

THE ADVANCE OF BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS AMERICA. By Elliott Smith. Broadman Press, Nashville, 1979. Paper. 184 Pages. \$3.95.

This is a popular account of “the missionary outreach of Baptists — missionary outreach as it was implemented through, and usually initiated by, the association.” Designed for use on the local level, authored by the director of missions, Trinity Southern Baptist Association, Indio, California, this book breaks no new ground but it does provide a readable summary of an important chapter of American Church History.