

Book Reviews

Books are reviewed for the benefit of pastors who often look to professors for evaluations. These reviews are not necessarily to recommend certain books from among the many currently available. Reviews are brief so that many may be included. Neither Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary nor the assigned reviewer proposes to endorse the entire content of any book.

Erickson, Millard J
Christian Theology Vol I

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983, 477 pp hard \$19.95 rev by W Vanhetloo

Every pastor should read a complete theology book every five years. This is the one for this year. Seminary students will be owning and using the three volume set; those in active ministry should put this set on their "must read" list. The work is in a style easy to read. The Scripture references are included in full so the reader follows with full comprehension without having to look up endless references in his study Bible. Greek and Hebrew type face has been employed. The book is a joy to read.

Prof Erickson's work is up-to-date. He summarizes twentieth century developments without detracting from his main development. He clearly declares his own position, based solidly on divine revelation. One slight irritant was his incorporation of extensive apologetical material in a text for systematic theology. Each reader will differ from a few of the author's positions, but all will benefit from his development. My heart was blessed and stirred to rejoice each time I read a portion.

Richards, Lawrence O
Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ Co, 1985, 720 pp, hard, \$19.95 rev by Gordon H Lovik

The goal of this volume is to help the reader "read the English Bible with an understanding of every significant concept expressed in English Bible words." About 1500 words found in the NASB and NIV are listed alphabetically in English and discussed as to their OT and NT significance. Cross references are used to guide the reader to other key discussions pertinent to the word under study. The accompanying Hebrew and Greek index lists allow for an expanded analysis of any word which has multiple English meanings.

With all the helpful information that this volume gives, it is only the extension of its author. In matters concerning "church," "elder," "pastor," "baptism," the bias of the author shows. Since a study of words is one of several steps leading to correct interpretation, this book will be helpful particularly to those without a working ability of the biblical languages. It is evangelical and conservative in its discussions and provides a helpful summary or conclusions at the end of the lengthy discussions.

Miller, Richard A
Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985, 340 pp hard \$14.95 rev by Gordon H Lovik

If you have experienced frustration due to a lack of understanding Greek and Latin terminology found in theological works, this book is for you. The terms found in writers of Protestant scholastic theology are listed and defined. It is Reformed rather than Dispensational in viewpoint. All terms are given in Latin or transliterated Greek with a literal translation and further discussion when necessary. All who read seriously in the theological works of Protestant writers will greatly appreciate this volume.

Stein, Jock and Howard Taylor
In Christ All Things Hold Together

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publ Co, 1984, 171 pp paper \$5.95 rev by W Vanhetloo

This book is a clear, "popular" presentation of Christian doctrine. All can benefit from the pattern of simple expression. The authors, missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, misrepresent fundamentalism, oppose limited atonement, common grace and so-called covenant of works, and promote children taking communion.

Williams, David John
Acts: A Good News Commentary

San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985, 478 pp paper \$12.95 rev by W Vanhetloo

This book is a commendable tool for a pastor, but perhaps a bit cumbersome for a Sunday school teacher. It is evangelical, the author an Anglican priest in Australia. As with any commentary, a pastor will disagree with several conclusions and react to certain presuppositions. Used with discernment, this study tool contains much useful information and helpful insights.

Caudill, R Paul
Hebrews a Translation With Notes

Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985, 175 pp paper \$4.95 rev by W Vanhetloo

The author presents his own translation along with comments concerning Greek words employed as footnotes. Analysis and commentary extend from page 85 to the end, starting again at Hebrews chapter one. Information provided is clear, helpful, easy to use. This handy study aid by a southern Baptist pastor-professor will be a worthy addition to many personal libraries.

Bethany Parallel Commentary on the Old Testament

Minneapolis: Bethany House Publ, 1985, 1983 pp cloth \$49.95 rev by Gordon H Lovik

This three in one commentary contains the notes for the condensed editions of Matthew Henry, Jamieson/Fausset/Brown, and Adam Clarke with additional comments from other older commentaries. The editor has laid out in three parallel columns in verse by verse fashion the comments on the Old Testament. Its value is in its access to several commentaries on one page and its economy of cost. However, being dated in its content, the volume has limited use. Sunday school teachers and college students may find help, but should consult the original works before buying.

Raitt, Jill (editor)
Shapers of Religious Traditions in Germany, Switzerland, and Poland, Fifteen Sixty to Sixteen Hundred

New Haven: Yale Univ Press, 1981, 224 pp cloth \$25.00 rev by J Stitzinger

This volume is a careful, factual survey of twelve lesser known theologians of the Reformation period. Eleven authors combined to provide the reader with brief introductions to the history and theology of a number of the important individuals who stood

in the shadow of Luther and Calvin. The volume appears to fulfill its purpose of providing a wider and balanced understanding of the Reformation by paying closer attention to these minor Reformation leaders (p vii). Traditions represented include Lutheran, Reformed, Catholic, and Anti-Trinitarian. The obvious weakness of the book is its failure to include individuals representative of the "Fourth" Reformation (G H Williams), namely, Anabaptism. It is still a valuable contribution to Reformation history.

Benner, David G, editor

Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985, 1223 pp hard \$39.95 rev by L Thornton

This encyclopedia is a comprehensive treatment of psychology from a Christian point of view. Approximately 80% of the 1,050 articles in this volume fall in the areas of personality, psychopathology, psychotherapy and other treatment approaches, major systems and theories of psychology and the psychology of religion. The remaining articles are divided among social psychology, developmental psychology and general experimental psychology. Articles appear in alphabetical order and are indexed topically. Authors of the articles are from the ranks of academicians and practitioners and are mostly psychologists. The approach is eclectic. It spends three pages critiquing nouthetic counseling and Jay Adams. The articles are understandable to nonpsychologists and are useful to psychologists and other mental health professionals. This book is recommended to those involved with the ministry of counseling as a reference book.

Backus, William

Telling the Truth to Troubled People

Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1985, 256 pp paper \$6.95 rev by L Thornton

Authored by a Lutheran minister who is a Christian psychologist, *Telling the Truth to Troubled People* sets forth an eclectic approach to counseling. It contains a great amount of helpful directions in dealing with anxiety disorders, depression, anger, abusive-compulsive disorders, manic depressive disorders, antisocial personality and sexual deviation. Cognitive psychology is recommended by William Backus as the agreeable framework for Christian belief in counseling.

Rupprecht, David and Ruth

Radical Hospitality

Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publ, 1983, 118 pp paper \$4.95 rev by Larry R Thornton

Radical hospitality is "the opening of a Christian home to someone who has been torn emotionally or relationally by sin or by others so that he or she can see firsthand the power of God to redeem, change, and heal." As Christian models who love the person in need, David and Ruth Rupprecht share their experiences in this difficult ministry and the experiences of four other families who live in different places. The authors establish a biblical basis for this ministry and define those who need this help. The realities of the difficulties of this ministry are presented along with rules and goals for the needy person who is living in the home. This book will be of great value to Christians who desire or are forced by family circumstances to take into their home a person who is in need of loving character forming care.

Daniels, Peter J

How to be Happy Though Rich

Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H Revell, 1985, 124 pp hard \$9.95 rev by John M Garber

To an avid reader of motivational books and articles, this one ranks among the best. Peter Daniels was a third generation welfare recipient who failed in school, and after his conversion was rejected for missionary service because of his lack of education. As shown by his own achievements, the value of the biblical urgency of Ecc 9:10 "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" is proven.

Wealth is demonstrated to be relative. It is, among other things, responsibility as well as leadership, power, influence, and sacrifice. The book is more about giving than getting. Mr Daniels soundly interprets and applies the truths of such passages as Luke 6:38 "give and it shall be given unto you" Luke 17:21 "because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities" and Matt 25:21 "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Readers ought to be better Christian stewards after reading this book.

Davis, John Jefferson
Your Wealth in God's World

Phillipsburg, NJ: Presb & Ref Publ, 1984 134 pp paper \$4.95 rev by L Thornton

Writing about the contemporary issues of wealth, poverty and stewardship, Professor Davis shows how basic economic principles are rooted in the biblical understanding of creation, human nature, divine providence, sin, Jesus Christ and the Christian life. He substantiates his assertions with Scripture and historical and statistical evidence. It is the author's conclusion that biblical teachings concerning property and the nature of man clearly point to the free market as the superior economic system. The subjects of responsibility, compassion, poverty, the government's and the church's roles in alleviating poverty, socialism, capitalism, pollution and depletion of resources are treated well. "Personal

Dimensions of Christian Stewardship" closes out this excellent volume which should be read by pastors and lay men.

Swindoll, Charles R
Come Before Winter and Share My Hope

Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1985, 344 pp hard \$13.95 rev by J Garber

The title is from the words of the imprisoned Paul to Timothy, "Do thy diligence to come before winter." One hundred and twenty-two brief devotional chapters provide a daily spiritual and practical blessing in facing the "winters" of life. The book is written in three parts—"before winter," "mid-winter's blast," and "winter's end"—teaching preparation, perseverance and promise. This is a different, delightful and refreshing work which if thoughtfully used will bring great comfort, reassurance and enjoyment to the reader.

Forder, Reg A
Soul-Winning: An Action Handbook for Christians

Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1984, 235 pp paper \$6.95 rev by John M Garber

Christians who are, or would be, soul-winners should find this work helpful and stimulating. The book contains hundreds of verses to be used in the approach, presenting the plan, giving the invitation, answering objections and follow-up. The author is of the Assembly of God denomination. Four times were noted where present day pentecostal doctrine was alluded to which the reviewer feels to be in error. Good Biblical answers are given to sixty-six common objections unbelievers have for not receiving Christ. The book is the product of the author's teaching soul-winning classes and day-long seminars. It is a very worthwhile and useful tool for such a purpose.

Hancock, Maxine

Creative, Confident Children

Old Tappen, NJ: Fleming H Revell, 1985, revised 192 pp hard \$10.95 rev by JoAnne Lovik

Parents of preschoolers need confidence in God and in themselves as they guide their children through their formative years. *Creative, Confident Children* teaches and encourages that confidence in a biblical, practical way. Mrs Hancock is the mother of four teenagers who were young children at the first edition. This revised edition draws on the results of her experiences of child raising. She discusses confidence, character development, and creativity including subject matter on self-acceptance, self-discipline, control of television, "body truth," competence, creative thinking, and language devel-

opment. As the author emphasizes, "it is time for parents to assert their right and responsibility to raise their children under God and for God." This book is excellent for all involved with preschoolers.

Ricks, Chip and Marilyn Marsh
How to Write for Christian Magazines

Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985, 251 pp paper \$7.50 rev by W Vanhetloo

The authors begin, "There are two kinds of writers: those who develop their talents and those who waste them. Study and hard work make the difference." How to go about this task is considered from first idea to final acceptance. Advice is practical. Examples are excellent. Buy and read before writing.