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Reformation
& **REVIVAL**
JOURNAL

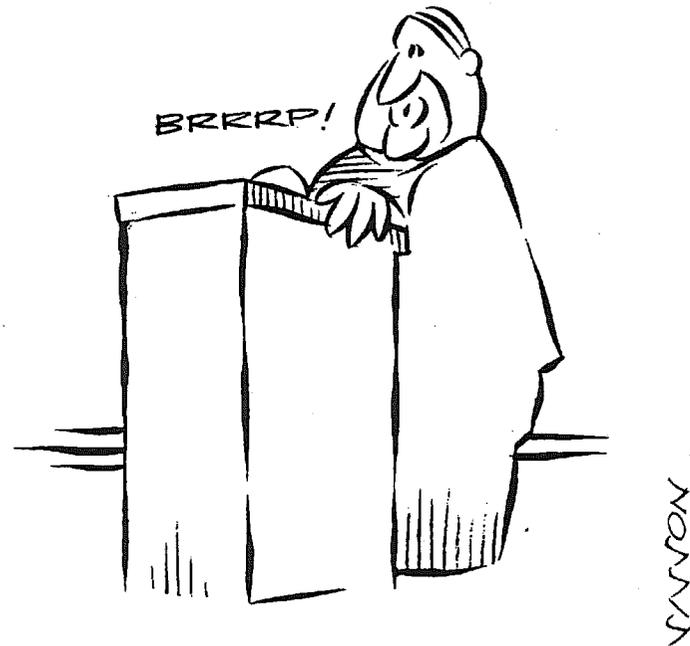
**CHRISTIAN
COUNSELING:
THE CARE OF SOULS**

A Quarterly for Church Renewal

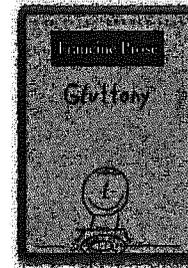
VOLUME 13 · NUMBER 2 · SPRING 2004

BOOK BRIEFS

John H. Armstrong



PASTOR BELKNAP SHARES WHAT'S ON HIS HEART.



GLUTTONY: THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Francine Prose

New York: Oxford University Press (2003)

108 pages, cloth, \$17.95

This is both a fascinating and profoundly important book. Based upon a lecture series sponsored by the New York Public Library and Oxford University Press this particular volume is rich with history, spiritual insight and just good counsel for those who struggle with food. (Who doesn't in modern America?) Prose shows how our notions of gluttony have evolved along the lines of salvation and damnation (thus, the seven deadly sins tradition from Leo the Great to the present), health and illness, life and death. Along the way she provides a great deal of helpful insight into the working of the modern mind regarding the enjoyment and misuse of food.

Prose writes, "The broad, shiny face of the glutton has been—and continues to be—the mirror in which we see ourselves, our hopes and fears, our darkest dreams and deepest desires." Her treatment is not one of Christian spiritual appreciation but it is one that will open the exploration of this sin to serious readers.

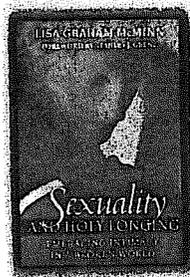


MUDHOUSE SABBATH

Lauren F. Winner
Brewster, Massachusetts:
Paraclete Press (2003)
161 pages, cloth, \$17.95

Lauren Winner is a convert from Orthodox Judaism to Evangelical Christianity. She is also one of the finest young writers on the scene today. Her much acclaimed book, *Girl Meets God*, tells her conversion story. Here, in *Mudhouse Sabbath* (named such because of her favorite coffee house in Charlottesville, Virginia, where she found herself thinking about the subject of this book one Sunday afternoon), she takes up the quest to reconcile her Judaism with her present faith and practice as a thoughtful Christian.

Winner shows, in a fun and very engaging way, how her life as a Christian is shaped by the spiritual practices of her background. In her desire to retain her rich spiritual tradition she develops the story of eleven practices that can help us transform the way we live in this present world. She considers Sabbath-keeping, the life of prayer, lighting candles, and fitting food (as examples). The style is so good that almost any reader will profit from her helpful autobiographical treatment. Her honesty is compelling.



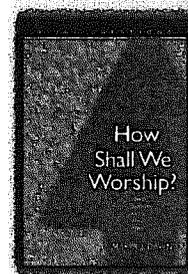
SEXUALITY AND HOLY LONGING: EMBRACING INTIMACY IN A BROKEN WORLD

Lisa Graham McMinn
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass (2004)
204 pages, cloth, \$23.95

Our perceptions about sex are confused and broken. Christians do not always offer satisfactory responses to the

problem. Lisa McMinn, professor of sociology and family at Wheaton College (Illinois), is an articulate spokesperson on gender issues in the Church. She is also a very accomplished writer.

The tough questions about gender and sexuality touch us at all stages of life. Our bodies are a gift from God and we need a theology of the body and of sexuality that is both biblical and reflective with regard to current issues. McMinn undertakes this challenge by addressing the issues of manhood/womanhood, adolescence, singleness, motherhood/fatherhood, and marriage and culture, all in six chapters. This is a much needed book and will profit pastors, teachers and counselors all.

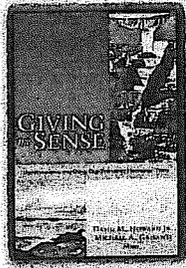


HOW SHALL WE WORSHIP?

Marva Dawn
Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale (2003)
191 pages, cloth, \$10.99

Marva Dawn is one of my favorite contemporary Christian writers and thinkers. She has devoted a great deal of attention to the subject of worship. This small book, part of a new Tyndale series called, "Vital Questions: Clear Thinking for the Faithful," is an excellent way to get into the heart of her insightful thought at a simple and practical level. Why are there so many disagreements in your church about worship? And what about music style?

What does eschatology have to do with worship? Dawn's answer will hopefully convince you that a future orientation in worship will form your life powerfully in the present. This chapter alone makes this little book an immensely useful guide for local church leadership.

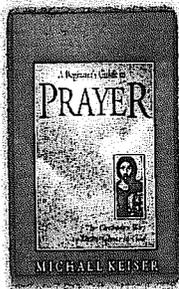


GIVING THE SENSE: UNDERSTANDING AND USING THE OLD TESTAMENT HISTORICAL TEXTS

David M. Howard, Jr.
and Michael A. Grisanti, editors
Grand Rapids: Kregel (2003)
484 pages, paper, \$24.95

How do you “give the sense” of an Old Testament historical narrative? The twenty essays in this volume make this a valuable evangelical study of a wide range of subjects related to Old Testament scholarship. Issues related to Old Testament texts including the dating of Exodus, the use of large numbers during Israel’s monarchy, and the literary features of the book of Esther make up the subjects.

This volume was prepared to honor Dr. Eugene H. Merrill. It includes a virtual who’s who of conservative Old Testament scholars; e.g. Daniel I. Block, C. Hassell Bullock, Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Allen Ross and Edwin M. Yamauchi. David Howard’s introductory chapter, “His as History: The Search for Meaning” is exceptional, as is Allen Ross’ chapter, “Did the Patriarchs Know the Name of the Lord?” Serious students of the Old Testament will profit from much of this work.



A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO PRAYER

Michael Keiser
Ben Lomond, California: Conciliar Press
(2003)
104 pages, paper, \$10.95

Don’t let the title of this fine little book keep you from it. Father Michael Keiser, an Orthodox priest in the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, is a popular author and speaker who knows how to communicate in simple, but powerful, ways. Keiser’s audience is not the scholar or the deeply

seasoned monastic but the ordinary Christian who desires a deeper relationship with God and needs help in how to begin.

Protestant Evangelicals can profit from a number of aspects of the Orthodox way. This book will prove useful to those who are tired of the “pat pattern” books of the popular evangelical sort. You need not agree with everything Keiser teaches to reap immense blessing from this beginner’s aid.

GOING PUBLIC WITH THE GOSPEL: REVIVING EVANGELISTIC PROCLAMATION

Lon Allison and Mark Anderson
Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press (2003)
180 pages, paper, \$13.00

Is the public proclamation of the gospel still important? Many argue that with the rise of postmodernism the end of evangelistic preaching is near. Before you bury the tried and true method of gospel preaching you should first weigh this well-written clarion call for proclamation. It is a call powerfully linked with the incarnational witness of the Church.

Lon Allison is the director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College and Mark Anderson works with Youth with a Mission and is the founder and international director of YWAM Campaigns, one of the world’s largest evangelistic ministries. Both men are active practioners, not theorists with very little experience. They write with clarity and conviction.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN HISTORY

Paul Grimley Kuntz
Thomas D’Evelyn, editor
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans (2004)
226 pages, paper, \$24.00

The late Paul Grimley Juntz (1915-2000) was professor of philosophy at Emory University and a teacher who believed the Decalogue offered a reasonable paradigm for a

well-ordered society. He spent the last decade of his life preparing this book. He considers the Decalogue and the history of its use from a number of angles and argues that the Ten Commandments are universal principles of social order. He shows how they can be applied in very specific circumstances and addresses the thought of more than twenty philosophers from antiquity to modernity, showing how they adapted the Commandments to the specific needs of their own time. Included among the giants Kuntz treats are Philo, Aquinas, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, Hobbes, Locke, Edwards, Kant, Jefferson and Pascal.

If you believe, as I do, that the Ten Commandments are not simply the social and religious taboos of an ancient people and culture but the divine principles of well-ordered life, then you will be deeply appreciative of this volume. If you are not so inclined, read it and you may well be convinced to change your thinking.

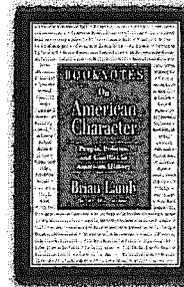


THINKING IN THE SPIRIT: THEOLOGIES OF THE EARLY PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT

Douglas Jacobsen
Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press (2003)
418 pages, paper, \$24.95

Jacobsen explores the beginnings of American Pentecostalism and shows what ideas defined it during these formative years. He does this by drawing the reader's attention to the ministries of the twelve most articulate spokespersons in the development of this twentieth-century movement. What Jacobsen provides is a balanced and sympathetic survey that reads well.

Douglas Jacobsen is professor of Church history and theology at Messiah College in Pennsylvania and the author of several works of scholarship that are important; e.g. *Re-Forming the Center: American Protestantism, 1900 to the Present* and *Scholarship and Christian Faith: Enlarging the Conversation*.



BOOKNOTES ON AMERICAN CHARACTER: PEOPLE, POLITICS, AND CONFLICT IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Brian Lamb
New York: Public Affairs (2004)
591 pages, cloth, \$29.95

It is no secret to my best friends that I am an avid *Booknotes* watcher. Each Sunday evening, Brian Lamb, the founding CEO of C-Span network, interviews an author of a recently published non-fiction book. Lamb is simply one of the finest interviewers in the business.

These interviews provide biographies of artists, businessmen, politicians and inventors. The stories told here are often moving and sometimes inspiring. One thing is for sure—they are almost never boring! This is the fourth volume in the *Booknotes* series. Anyone interested in current non-fiction and the craft of writing non-fiction will profit immensely from these interviews. Several friends of mine have been interviewed by Brian Lamb and they all testify to the sheer brilliance of his style and approach. Even on the printed page this is revealed. On television it often borders on magnificent living history.

JESUS CHRIST AND THE TEMPLE

George A. Barrois
Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (1980)
164 pages, paper, \$9.95

What did the temple, its solemn assemblies and its festive processions, represent for the common people in the time of Jesus? Professor George Barrois answers this question by engaging both the relevant biblical texts and the historical evidence. His desire is to show how the earthly life of the Messiah ushered in the new age. He does this in a non-technical and readable style.

Barrois was born and educated in France and served on the faculty of the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem in the interval between the two world wars. He was an expert in Old Testament archaeology and taught at Princeton Theological Seminary after World War II. He later converted to Orthodoxy and taught Old Testament at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

ON THE PERSON OF CHRIST: THE CHRISTOLOGY OF THE EMPEROR JUSTINIAN

Kenneth P. Wesche, translator

Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (1991)
203 pages, paper, \$12.95

In the early sixth century much of the Roman Empire had fallen into the hands of barbarian warlords. The churches of Rome and Constantinople were locked in a schism that was deeply rooted in the Christological debates related to the Council of Chalcedon (451). The emperor Justinian (527-565) sought to reunite the Empire and to accomplish this by a unified Church. After his initial efforts succeeded the monophysite controversy arose, thus dividing the churches once again. Justinian pursued a policy of reunification by sponsoring a theological program meant to show that Chalcedon's definition of faith was true to Cyril's Christological formulas. There were three documents central to this effort: *Against the Monophysites*, *Concerning the Three Chapters*, and *On the True Faith*. Each of these historic documents is translated in this volume. However, the monophysites were not convinced. These works provide a profound insight into the mind of the Orthodox Church following this era. Sadly, evangelical Christians have placed little or no emphasis on Christological theology. The recovery of such interest, in recent years, makes this a noteworthy volume.



JUSTIFICATION AND THE FUTURE OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT: THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

William G. Rusch, editor
Collegeville, Minnesota:
The Liturgical Press (2003)
149 pages, paper, \$14.95

On October 31, 1999, officials of the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church, meeting in Augsburg, Germany, signed an "Official Common Statement" with its "Annex" and the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." They declared publicly, and in a binding manner, that a consensus in basic truths of the doctrine of justification exists between Lutherans and Catholics. In 2000 a conference was held at the Berkley Divinity School of Yale University to consider the importance of this momentous declaration for the worldwide ecumenical movement. This book includes the nine essays from this event.

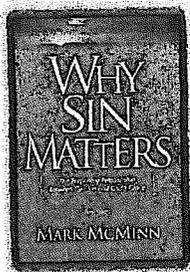
Writers include George Lindbeck, Henry Chadwick, Michael Root, Gabriel Fackre, Edward Idris Cassidy and Frank Macchia. Perspectives range from Anglican to Reformed and Pentecostal. The importance of these historical moments might miss some Evangelicals, but there is increasing reason to hope that they will join in this discussion as true dialogue partners. Only convinced sectarians remain on the outside. Evangelicals do not need to give away their important biblical contribution to enter this process and to profit from this book.

FROM PROPHECY TO TESTAMENT: THE FUNCTION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW

Craig A. Evans, editor
Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson (2004)
280 pages, cloth, \$29.95

There is no serious doubt, among biblical scholars in our time, that the writers of the New Testament had a theology and an approach to the interpretation of the Old Testament Scripture that was informed by the biblical and extra-biblical literature of the Jewish people. This volume provides thirteen original essays by twelve respected scholars who show how Second-Temple Jewish literature impacted the interpretation of the Old Testament, and thus the writing of the New.

Craig Evans' introductory essay is a treasure trove of information on the most recent research in this field. Though the writers are all specialists, their work is quite readable and serious non-scholars can profit by it. Anyone who is reading material on the so-called New Perspective on Paul will benefit by this helpful volume.



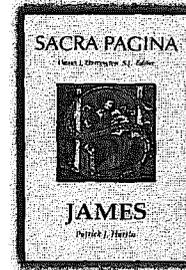
WHY SIN MATTERS: THE SURPRISING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR SIN AND GOD'S GRACE

Mark R. McMinn
Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale (2004)
189 pages, cloth, \$17.99

Mark McMinn is a psychology professor who takes the influence of theology seriously. He believes that sin must not be explained away, even by a psychology that seeks to help struggling souls. Unless sin is taken seriously grace will be cheap. His passion seems clear—restore costly and amazing grace to the healing of souls; i.e., to counseling.

When the language of sin is exchanged for self-help psy-

chology the result is a weak gospel and the loss of real hope. The bad news must be told if the good news is to be really good. Rather than affirming the popular mantra, "I'm OK, you're OK," McMinn believes it is wiser to confess, "I'm a mess, you're a mess." Amen!



JAMES

The Sacra Pagina Series (Volume 14)
Patrick J. Hartin
Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press
(2003)
319 pages, cloth, \$39.95

This series, developed and written by Roman Catholic scholars, provides a fresh, critical analysis of the text of the Bible without losing its way with regard to theological meaning. The volumes present first-rate introductory material combined with close exposition and focus on the issues raised by the New Testament itself. *Sacra Pagina* refers to the "sacred page" and is an ancient term used for the text of the Holy Scriptures. Vatican II called for a new engagement of the Scriptures and this series seeks to carry out that vision.

Patrick Hartin studied at the Gregorian University in Rome and holds two doctorates from the University of South Africa. He teaches New Testament at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. There are several significant strengths of this particular volume. First, it's breadth of scholarship is impressive. Two, the insights the author brings to the ancient world of early Christianity are very helpful. Three, Hartin shows the practical importance of James' epistle at many points. This is a volume that evangelical Protestant readers can surely benefit from if they want to take advantage of post-Vatican II biblical scholarship.