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# **Book Review. - Literatur**

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## Book Review - Literatur

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Das Buch ber Führung. Rap. 36—50 bes ersten Buches Moje. Für Freunde und Berächter ber Bibel ausgelegt von Mag. helmut Freh. 1939. Calmer Bereinsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart. 232 Seiten 534×834. Preis: RM. 4.00.

Bezeichnend für ben Inhalt biefes Buches, bas auf bas "Buch ber Unfänge" besjelben Berfaffers folgt, ift ichon bie Bibmung "Für Freunde und Berächter ber Bibel ausgelegt". Bezeichnend ift auch bie Bermertung in ber Einführung jum Buch, bag ber "Wiberftand bes einft hiftorifch=tritifch eingestellten Berfaffers an ber Dacht ber Echrift gerbrochen ift". Der Grundgebante bes Berfaffers, in Eregeje und Ausführung, ergibt fich aus feiner eigenen Darlegung: "Charaltes riftifch für "Das Buch ber Führung' ift, bag barin - beutlicher vielleicht als in einem andern Teil ber Bibel - Die handlung in ihren hiftorifchen Linien burch: fichtig wird für ewige Linien ber Reichsgottespolitit, bas in ben Schidfalen ber handelnben und leidenden Berfonen urbildhaft bie Bege Chrifti und feiner Bemeinde und ihr Rampf hervortreten." (S. 10.) Es will uns icheinen, daß in bejug auf ben letten Buntt Die Unwendung bes Berfaffers manchmal allegorifie: rend ift; aber es ift trogbem flar, bag bas Buch burchweg von bem Standpuntt eines bibelgläubigen Gelehrten aus geschrieben ift, und zwar eines Gelehrten, ber auf Grund bes Urtegtes feine Egegefe bietet. Jeber Abichnitt wird mit einer wörtlichen überjegung eröffnet, an bie fich eine turge Ertlärung anfchließt. Die "theologifche Befinnung" bietet die Untvendung bes Berfaffers, und bier tonnen wir ihm öfter nicht folgen. Befonbers wichtig ift bie Abhandlung über schiloh in Ben. 49, bas ber Berfaffer mit "ber Ruhevolle" überfeht. Er nimmt babei voll und gang bie meffianische Deutung ber Stelle an. Jeber Baftor, ber fich über: haupt noch mit Eregeje beschäftigt, und besonders jeber, ber noch auf Grund bes Urtertes intenfive Studien treibt, wird in Diefem Buche eine Fulle wertbollen Materials finben. B. E. Rregmann

Das erfte Samuelisbuch. Bon Dans Usmuffen. Chr.-Raifer=Berlag, München. 174 Seiten 6×9. Preis: RM. 3.70. Rartoniert.

Usmuffens Auslegung des ersten Samuelisbuchs tann unfern Pastoren warm empfohlen werden, wenn wir auch nicht allen Ausführungen des Versaffers beistimmen. über die Methode sciner Auslegung schreibt der Berfasser in seinem Borwort die solgenden beherzigenswerten Worte: "Es ift eine in der Christenheit seit alters geübte Erlenntnis, die meines Wissens nie so tlar wie in der Reformationszeit ausgesprochen worden ist, daß die Heilige Schrift selbst der Weg zu ihr ist; denn sie legt sich selbst aus. Richt die Vorverständnisse, die wir von ihr haben können, sind entscheidend, sondern das ist entscheidend, ob wir bereit sind, auf die Heilige Schrift zu hören und sie zu fragen, was sie uns zu erzählen hat und welches Ziel sie sohl damit versolgt. Denn barüber tann ja nur sie selbst authentisch Austunft erteilen. Aus diesem Grunde liegt so biel baran, daß der Wortlaut der Schrift in seinem einfältigen Verstande genommen wird. Die nächsten Generationen in der Kirche werden badon leben oder daran sterben, ob Prediger oder Hort bes Bortes da sind, die sundasst einsacht das mit zufrieden geben, auf die Schrift zu hören." (S. 7.)

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Leiber befolgt ber Berfaffer nicht immer feinen Grunbfat, fo wenn er S. 84 bon einer wirflichen Möglichleit bes Falles bei 3Efu Berfuchung rebet. Auch ift 1 Cam. 14, 36 nicht von einer Einmifchung bes Priefters bie Rebe. (6. 91.) Usmuffen hat auch tein Recht, bie Beisfagung Samuels, feiner Schüler und Sauls mit Raferei zu ibentifizieren. (S. 127.) Er rebet von einer Dacht, "bie nach bem Bortlaute bes Tegtes jener andern Dacht nahe verwandt fein muß, die Saul jeweils zur Raferei bringt. (18, 10.) Das Mertwürdige ift, daß fie hier als die Macht erscheint, welche von Samuel und feinen Genoffen Befitz er= griffen hat: Samuel weisfagt (raft) an ber Spige einer Prophetenschar, bie ebenfo wie er im Buftanbe ber Beisfagung (ber Raferei) fich befindet". Bu biefer Auslegung gibt ber Wortlaut bem Verfaffer burchaus fein Recht, ebenfowenig wie Gefenius=Buhl in feinem Wörterbuch bas Recht hat, als zweite Bedeutung bes hitpael bon NIJ, "rafen", aufzuführen. 211s einzige Belegstelle führt Gefenius 1 Cam. 18, 10 an und vergleicht Jer. 29, 26; aber weber bie Tatfache, baß Saul weisfagte, 1 Sam. 18, 10, noch baß Propheten und Berrudte auf gleiche Stufe ge= ftellt werben, Jer. 29, 26, beweißt, bag weisfagen jemals rafen heißt. Das ber gottloje Saul weisjagte, tommt von bemfelben Gott, ber burch ben gottlojen Raiphas prophezeite, und in Jer. 29, 26 ift es ein Feind bes von Gott gefandten Propheten Jeremias, ber Propheten und Berrudte zufammenftellt. Gind etwa rechtichaffene chriftliche Prediger unferer Beit Berrudte, Berbummenbe, blog weil fie bon ben Feinden Chrifti fo betitelt werben? Uns wundert Dieje 3dentifigies rung Usmuffens um fo mehr, als er gleich im nachften Gat fcbreibt: "Bas bier eigentlich geschicht, wird nicht näher gejagt. Der Lefer unferer Tage ahnt es nicht einmal." Alfo ber Wortlaut bes Tertes berechtigt nicht ju biefer 3bentis fizierung. Doch halten uns die Mängel bes Buches nicht ab, es als wirklich anregendes und in ben reichen Inhalt biefes nicht allguoft behandelten Buches ber heiligen Schrift einführendes Wert unfern Lefern ju empfehlen.

Th. Latid

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Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians by Martin Luther. A new abridged translation by Theodore Graebner, D. D., Professor of Philosophy and New Testament Interpretation, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 282 pages, 5½×8. Price, \$1.95.

What evangelical Christian will not rejoice when he hears that Luther's Commentary on Galatians is now available in a modern, very readable version? Since articles dealing with this classic of Luther have not long ago appeared in the CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY, it is not necessary for us to dwell on the historical circumstances and the influence of this great work. From the preface we ought to take over nevertheless these introductory remarks: This epistle was his favorite among all the Biblical books. In his 'Table Talks' the saying is recorded: 'The Epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am, as it were, in wedlock. It is my Katherine.' Much later, when a friend of his was preparing an edition of all his Latin works, he remarked to his home circle: 'If I had my way about it, they would republish only those of my books which have doctrine, my Galatians, for instance.' The lectures which are preserved in the work herewith submitted to the American public were delivered in 1531. They were taken down by John Roerer,

who held something of a deanship at Wittenberg University and who was one of Luther's aids in the translation of the Bible. Roerer took down Luther's lectures, and this manscript has been preserved to the present day, in a copy which contains also additions by Veit Dietrich and by Cruciger, friends of Roerer's, who with him attended Luther's lectures. In other words, these three men took down the lectures which Luther addressed to his students in the course of Galatians, and Roerer prepared the manuscript for the printer. A German translation by Justus Menius appeared in the Wittenberg edition of Luther's writings, published in 1539."

Scholars are agreed that among the epistles of St Paul Galatians holds a very prominent place. In saying this, we, of course, do not wish to imply that this book is inspired in a higher degree than the other epistles of the apostle; we merely wish to say that on account of the topic treated in it and its elaboration the letter is peculiarly important. St. Paul here defends, in words burning with indignation against false teachers and at the same time aglow with the deepest love for his spiritual children that have been misled, the doctrine of justification by grace through faith, the very doctrine through the triumphant preaching and defense of which Luther inaugurated the reformation of the Church. Luther's comments on this work, coming as they do from a heart which had passed through the severest struggles and had found peace in the message of St. Paul, are the best human means we have of taking the student into the very depths of the apostle's thought and explaining his message to him.

Luther is not easy to translate. His speech is so individualistic that one often despairs of being able to give an adequate rendering. A mistake which is frequently made is too close adherence to the letter of the original, with the result that the version is awkward, clumsy, unidiomatic in its English, and difficult to understand. Whoever translates Luther should make up his mind not to be slavishly literal and thus spoil the book for the reader by a poor English style. The version before us makes good reading, we are happy to say. The sentences are short, the English is fluent, and one has no difficulty in apprehending the meaning. One more word of explanation is necessary. The translation before us does not give us Luther's entire commentary, which in the Weidman edition fills 733 octavo pages. The translator had to make a selection. He omitted sentences which contained mere repetitions or not absolutely necessary amplifications, thus greatly reducing the size of the work and adding to its usefulness for the ordinary reader. The preface states that Dr. Graebner had the very material assistance of Pastor Mahler of Geneva, N.Y., in the preparation of this volume. W. ARNDT

Karl Barth's Idea of Revelation. By P. H. Monsma, Th. B., Ph. D. Somerset Press, Inc., Somerville, N. J. 218 pages, 6½×94.

In view of the fact that many ministers are now becoming interested in the study of Barthianism, we suggest to them (especially to beginners) this fine presentation of the fundamental Barthian concept, viz., that of *revelation*. The Barthian idea of revelation is his premise; everything

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else is only corollary. There are in the main three reasons why we prefer Monsma's excellent monograph to other works on Barth. In the first place, it confines itself to one topic but treats that basic and expansive topic thoroughly. In the second place, Dr. Monsma personally attended Barth's Dogmatische Sozietaet during the winter semester of 1933-1934; besides, he was enabled to study Dr. Istvan Joeroek's (Hungarian) biographical sketch of his teacher, containing material largely obtained at first hand from Barth himself, and so he came into close contact with the famous dialectician. For Dr. Barth the author shows a strong feeling of personal affection and esteem; his dialectic theology, however, he severely condemns as at variance with historic Calvinism. Dr. Monsma himself studied at Calvin College (Grand Rapids), Michigan University (philosophy), Calvin Seminary (theology), Princeton Seminary (theology), Bonn University (theology), and Columbia University, where he obtained his Ph. D. in philosophy and Religionsgeschichte. His work is divided into three parts, the first showing the "origin and development of Barth's theology (100 pages)," the second, "Barth's idea of revelation (64 pages)," and the third, a "résumé and critique" (28 pages), while the remainder of the book is devoted to the extensive "References" and "Bibliography." In the third place, Dr. Monsma really tries to make Barth intelligible to the average readers, employing simple, lucid language and proceeding in short, easy stages to the climax of his monograph. As a help for beginners it surpasses anything which so far has been written on Barth in our country. Barth's Werdegang via his own father, theologian Fritz Barth (Die Hauptprobleme des Lebens Jesu, surrendering vital parts of the Christian faith), Schlatter, Ritschl, Harnack, Herrmann, Kant, Troeltsch, Schweitzer, Blumhardt, Kutter, Thurneysen, Kierkegaard, Calvin, Luther, supplied Barth with a number of theological ideas that were hurled at his puzzled theological reading public in his Roemerbrief and other works. Barth attracted Conservatives by his pious phrases, borrowed from Luther and Calvin, charmed the Liberals by his frequent departure from historic Christian theology, and mystified all by his dialectical modus demonstrandi. From beginning to end (and today he has lost much of his popularity in continental Europe) he was a Religionsphilosoph rather than a theologian, and more and more this modern theologian is compelled by the logic of his system to go over to the Modernists. Dr. Monsma shows very clearly that Barth's idea of revelation is "threatened with collapse," indeed, that it fails at every point of application to the Christian doctrine. J. THEODORE MUELLER

The God whom We Ignore. By John Kennedy. The Macmillan Company, New York. 260 pages, 5½×7½. Price, \$2.00.

This is another book among the thousands published in our day which by the use of pious phraseology makes it appear that it is preaching a religion that is Christian, while in reality it is not. Evidently the old-time creeds, founded upon the Bible as upon the unerring Word of God, are not the creeds of the writer of this book. We take this from his own words. He says:

"This old-time 'science,' or cosmogony, can be traced all through the Bible, is latent in our Psalms, and indeed many of our hymns, and is the basis on which were framed the old-time creeds. What are we to do about it? We must simply regard it as the setting into which revelation had to fit, but not as revelation itself. We do not throw away a rich jewel as worthless because its setting is old-fashioned. We may either use it in its old setting or place it in a new setting. That depends very largely on our temperament. If we are so sophisticated that we cannot think historically, we may frame new creeds and write new hymns to express our conviction that God is revealed in Christ, and for some people that may be a real help. But we cannot rewrite the Bible or repudiate many of our old-time hymns without throwing away as worthless some classical religions jewels." (Pages 102, 103.)

In the chapter on "The Significance of Jesus" we expect to find, if anywhere in the book, a clear, clean-cut statement in reference to the deity of Christ and His real saviorhood in becoming the sinner's Substitute. But this is what we found:

"The quality of eternal life is made manifest in Jesus. That quality is made manifest in the redeeming acts of Jesus. We see His whole life as an act of redemption, in thought, word, and deed. We see in Him what seems to us to be an overplus of energy spending itself freely for the temporal and eternal good of men, but which is for God a manifestation of His inexhaustible sufficiency. It is in that light we must regard the miracles of Jesus. The divine spirit is not straitened. God has not used Himself up in the creation and maintenance of the world. There is inexhaustible power in the living God, which seeks to pour itself out in beneficence to man. Jesus forces us to give up our notion of the universe as a closed system and to feel the power of the living God, who is above all things and in them and expressing His own nature as redeeming love in every channel open to His grace. In Jesus we see the redemptive activity of God. We behold the Father. We break through phenomena to the God behind the phenomena and find Him revealed not as Universal Indifference but as Redemptive Love. It is the life surrendered to the God so revealed and which is energized by the redemptive spirit that possessed the Man of Nazareth which is the Christian life and that is life indeed. The Christian life therefore is the life of union with God, the life of the surrendered will and mind and heart to the goodness and truth and beauty we find in Jesus." (Pages 93-95.)

Christ's work according to Dr. Kennedy was an "overplus of energy spending itself freely for the temporal and eternal good of men but which is for God a manifestation of His inexhaustible sufficiency." According to the Scriptures "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us," Gal. 3:13.

As in the days of Christ, so today we have in the churches "blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch," Matt. 15:14. Says the Savior: "In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men," Matt. 15:9.

J. H. C. Farz

Lutherifche Rirche Deutschlands — wohin? Bon S. Rirsten, Pastor in Sannober. Berlag des Schriftenbereins (E. Rlärner), Zwidau. 48 Seiten 51/2×9. Preis: Rartoniert, RM, 1.20.

Bir haben hier eine treffliche Darlegung ber Schriftlehre bon bem Befen und ber Aufgabe ber Rirche und eine icharfe Abweifung ber falfden Lehre ber romas niferenden Lutheraner, bie bas Befen ber Rirche aus ber unfichtbaren Gemein= fcaft ber Blaubenben in Die fichtbare Gemeinichaft ber Betennenben berlegen und weiterhin bie Rirche nicht anders tennen als Anftalt, äußeren Organismus. Benn nun "bas Befen ber Rirche aus ber unfichtbaren Gemeinfchaft ber Glaus benben in bie fichtbare Gemeinichaft ber Belennenben verlegt wirb, fo ergibt fich baraus bie Rotwendigleit, auch bie geuchler und Scheinchriften, bie mali und improbi, die teilhaben an der externa societas rituum, ju wahren Gliedern der Rirche ju erheben, . . . wenigstens, wie Th. harnad fich ausbrudt, ju ,paffiben Gliedern'". Dan fucht "eine unmögliche Situation in ber Rirche, nämlich bie Dulbung offenbaren Unglaubens und offenbarer Gottlofigteit, bogmatijch und moralijd bor fich felbft zu rechtfertigen". Und was die Definition ber Rirche als "Unftalt" betrifft (Bilmar: "Die Rirche ift nicht eine Gefellichaft, nicht ein haufe gläubiger Menfchen . . ., fonbern bie Rirche ift bon borns herein ein lebenbiger Organismus, ein aus Inftituten, Berufen, fimtern und Ständen gegliederter Organismus, und zwar ift fie bas von Gott"), fo berwechfelt man nicht nur bie Aufgabe ber Rirche mit bem Befen ber Rirche, fondern es ift auch babin getommen, bag man bie Aufgabe ber Rirche falich aufs faßt. Das Echlagwort ift: nicht Freitirche, fonbern Boltstirche! Run aber "foll es fich bei ber Bolfslirche um eine Rirche handeln, bie nicht nur an bas Bolt fich wendet, fondern bie bas gange Bolt umfaffen will und bie es barum nicht nur mit bem einzelnen Denfchen im Bolt, fonbern zugleich auch irgendwie mit bem Bolt als Gangem ju tun haben will". Man fagt auf jener Seite, daß "die Rirche fich nicht beschräntt und beschränten tann auf bie Betchrung einzelner" (bas ift alfo bie Sammlung ber Gläubigen!), "fonbern bie "Durchbringung bes Boltslebens mit ben Lebensträften bes Gbangeliums' im Auge haben muß. . . . Wenn bie Rirche nicht in einem Jenfeits fern in ben Bolten ichmeben, fonbern ihren Gig im Leben, ihre Birts lichteit in Diefer Befchichte haben will, bann muß fie auch in Diefe Belt und ihre Befchichte, in unfer wie in jedes Bolt eingeben und alfo Boltstirche werben". Uhnliche Stimmen hört man ja auch bier in Amerita. Und ba wollen wir uns bon P. Rirften fagen laffen, daß "eine folche Bollstirche als Daffentirche fich eben nur rechtfertigen läht, folange man bas Wefen ber Rirche als congregatio sanctorum (Gemeinde ber Seiligen) ausbrüdlich berleugnet und fie nur anficht als Unftalt für ben Glauben und fo fichtbare und unfichtbare Rirche auseinander= reiht". - Es fei noch barauf hingewiefen, bag bie Unficherheit und Berworrenheit in ber Lehre von ber Rirche jum großen Teil babon herrührt, bag man bas Schriftpringip hat fahren laffen und bafür bie Erlebnistheologie eingetaufcht hat. Bilmar: "Dogmatif ift berjenige Teil ber Theologie, welcher Die göttlichen Tats fachen ber Erlöfung bes Denfchengeschlechts barftellt, fo mie biefelben bon ber driftlichen Rirche erfahren und aufgefaßt merben. ... Die fubjettibe Quelle ber Dogmatif tann nichts anderes fein als bie Erfahrung, bie perfönliche Beteiligung an jenen göttlichen Tatfachen. ... Die weiteren Erfahrungen, bie noch bor uns liegen, beziehen fich auf bas

Wefen ber Rirche und auf die letten Dinge, die Eschatologie." It es ein Bunder, daß die Theologen, die darauf warten, daß die "Erfahrung" Licht in die Lehre von der Rirche bringt, mittlerweile nicht wilfen, wie fie dran find?

Th. Engelber

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## Psychiatry. By Jacob D. Mulder, S. B., M. D. 170 pages, 5½×8. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. Price, \$150. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

We are very glad that a book of this nature has been published. The author describes the twenty-two classes of mental disturbances according to the classification adopted by the American Psychiatric Association and listed in Dr. Fritz's Pastoral Theology on page 214. He also illustrates the more common types of psychoses by "case histories," in which the patient's own words are used whenever possible. He adds, however, the warning: "Do not try to reach your own conclusions on the basis of information obtained in this treatise. In any case of what appears to be mental disturbance a qualified psychiatrist should always be consulted. The field of psychiatry is large, obscure, and full of difficult problems, even to the specialist." The author writes from the Christian viewpoint. While we do not agree with him in limiting "demonism as the New Testament speaks of," "to that age of special miracles," we rejoiced to read his frank endorsement of the Scriptural doctrine of total depravity. "The problem why the mental patient evidences in thought, speech, and actions, besides the abnormal which could be expected, so much that is morally wrong, is a dreadful reality daily brought to our attention. The intelligence in mental disturbance is sick and no longer a safe guide; but why should the outflow of thought so frequently tend toward evil? Pride, jealousy, irritability, stubbornness, indolence, cursing, assault, and even murder are frequently observed. The only explanation is God's conclusion in regard to man at the time of the Flood, 'For the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth,' Gen. 8:21; or, as a certain modern philosopher exclaimed, "There is no crime so black but what its roots are found in every human heart." (P. 156.) THEO. LAETSCH

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