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Book Review. - Literatur

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Book Review

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.

Studies in the Epistle to the Hebrews. Also Lectures on the Epistle to Titus. By H. A. Ironside, Litt. D. Published by Loizeaux Brothers, New York. 192 pages, 7½×5. \$1.25.

The studies in Hebrew were first published in serial form in 1931 and 1932 in the monthly expository magazine *Revelation*. Dr. Ironside is a Fundamentalist, and the studies are written throughout from the viewpoint of Dispensationalism and Calvinism. While he is a staunch defender of Verbal Inspiration and of the deity of Christ, yet strange to say, he refers Ps. 2:7 to Christ's conception and birth by the Virgin Mary (pp. 34, 35), and while he upholds the vicarious atonement, he limits the latter to the elect. On the phrase "having purged our sins" he writes: "There are many whose sins are not purged. . . . It is the act of making an available means for purgation that is here stressed." That is doing injustice to the clear words of the text. His Calvinistic background compels him to regard the apostates described chap. 6:4, 5 and 10:26-31 as persons who never have been regenerated, "never knew what it was to receive the Lord Jesus as their own personal Savior" (pp. 80, 81). The author's Dispensationalism crops out time and again and, with his Calvinism, tends to mar the enjoyment one might otherwise get from reading this book.

The studies on Titus were first published in *Moody's Monthly*. They are rather brief, covering pages 179-192. The "washing of regeneration" is not Baptism, but "the application of the Word of God to heart and conscience," p. 189.

THEO. LAETSCH

Names of God in the Old Testament. By Nathan J. Stone. Published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. 160 pages, 7¼×5½. \$1.00.

This book was written by a converted Jew who is now professor of Hebrew at Moody Bible Institute. While not subscribing to every interpretation, we regard this book as profitable reading and stimulating for the study of the marvelous names of God. The names treated in this book are: Elohim, Jehovah, Adonai, El Shaddai (Gen. 17:1, 2), Jehovah-Jireh (Gen. 22:14), Jehovah-Rophe (Ex. 15:26), Jehovah-Nissi (Ex. 17:15), Jehovah-M'Kaddesh (Lev. 20:8), Jehovah-Shalom (Judg. 6:24), Jehovah-Tsidkenu (Jer. 23:6), Jehovah-Rohi (Ps. 23:1), Jehovah Shammah (Ez. 48:35). On page 106 the author says that "man must of his own free will exercise that provision and power" in spiritual things with which God has endowed him. If a man can exercise power, he is no longer dead; and if a man who was dead in trespasses and sins has received power to choose that which is spiritually good, he is no longer spiritually dead, but God has through His Gospel made him spiritually alive, regenerated him, made him a willing servant of his Maker.

TH. LAETSCH

Let Us Reason Together. A Summary of Christian Teaching. By Rupert H. Schroeder. Authorized by the Army and Navy Commission of the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod). Concordia Publishing House. 218 pages, 3½×4½. 75 cents. Questions and Answers, Part 1—3. 15 cents.

Here is a new book in the field of adult instruction for church membership. It was written in particular for the assistance of chaplains and civilian pastors connected with candidates for church membership in the armed forces of our country. The form of presentation is that of a group discussion given in detail in the book, various members of a membership class being brought into the conversation, with the pastor presenting the Scriptural view in a very skillful manner. Practically every ancient and modern objection to Scriptural truth is brought out in the discussion of the group. The approach is interesting, and it will be worth finding out whether this form of teaching can be done on the basis of conversations written out in such detail. Yet we believe that a pastor with some experience can use a text of this type successfully. There are three little pamphlets of tests and one of answers included in the set. The answers are according to the true-false method, whose advantages and drawbacks are sufficiently well known to all educators. If the book will serve to bring further people into the Church or to the knowledge of the truth, it will have served its purpose.

P. E. KREZMANN

In Thy Light. 12 Radio Addresses. By Walter E. Bauer, Ph.D. Concordia Publishing House. 75 cents.

We welcome this contribution to the literature of the Church from a faculty member of our Lutheran University at Valparaiso, Indiana. Dr. W. E. Bauer is professor of history and political science. After his graduation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, he served congregations in Arkansas and New York, received his master's degree from Columbia University, and took his doctorate at Cornell. He has been at Valparaiso for eighteen years.

The twelve addresses were originally delivered to a radio audience in the Chicago area. They bear these titles: 1. Behold the Man. 2. Martin Luther—Then and Now. 3. Education—a Promise or a Menace. 4. The Christian Way in Education. 5. Religion and Education. 6. Christianity and Civilization. 7. Christianity or Paganism. 8. "Freedom's Holy Light." 9. Lincoln Speaks to a World at War. 10. Good Counsel from the Father of His Country. 11. Reconstruction—a Moral Problem. 12. The Kingship of Jesus. The content of each address is scholarly, while the presentation is in simple language. It is a book which should be recommended by pastors to parents and young people, especially to those who are interested in Christian education.

L. J. SIECK

In Season—Out of Season. Occasional Sermons. Concordia Publishing House. \$1.50.

The busy pastor will appreciate this volume of occasional sermons. He will find in these addresses new thoughts and new approaches to the

subject matter of his preaching on various occasions, ranging from weddings and funerals to anniversaries, graduation, the installation of a parochial school teacher, dedication of church windows, Mission Sunday, national days, etc. The thirty sermons are fresh from the pen of twenty-three Missouri Synod preachers, each writing in his own style and for his particular audience, yet all alike in this that they direct the hearer to Christ, the Savior. We recommend it to you as a helpful volume.

L. J. SZECK

I Crucified the Lord. A Series of Lenten Meditations. By R. R. Belter. The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa. 124 pages. 5¼×7¾. \$1.00.

This is an excellent series of forty Lenten meditations—brief, instructive, devotional, and covering in their compass the salient points in the sacred narrative of Christ's suffering and death. The central thought pervading the meditations is given in the words which are used as the title of the book *I Crucified the Lord* and which focus the reader's attention on his sin as causative of the Lord's Passion, but also on his claim to Christ's precious redemption. The Christian who penitently and believingly reads these devout studies in sin and grace will glean from them not only abundant comfort for his trouble of sin, but will also, through the power of the Word, take from the Gospel of Christ's suffering new holy zeal to amend his life. A commendable feature of the book is that it induces the reader to study with deep interest the glorious story of the great Atonement made for our sins, as given in the four Gospels. The author is pastor of Bethany Ev. Luth. Church, Burlington, Iowa. We recommend this new series of Lenten meditations to both pastors and laymen for earnest study.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

Light from the Old for a New Order. Dallas C. Baer. The Lutheran Literary Board, Burlington, Iowa. 258 pages. 5¼×9. \$2.00.

This is the first volume of a new series of discourses on the whole Eisenach Old Testament Lessons for the Sundays and the major festivals of the church year, covering the period from the first Sunday in Advent to the Sunday after Ascension. The second volume of the series is to appear in a short time. The author is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, Pa., and is favorably known to Lutheran ministers by ten volumes of sermons on the received pericopes and on free texts. He is pleasingly old-fashioned in this respect that he carefully develops from the text the thoughts on sin and grace which he wishes to impress on his hearers, and again modern in the sense that his approach is appealingly original. In his sermons there is depth of thought, clarity of presentation, lucidity and dignity of language, and a fine regard for the Christian's need of Law and Gospel. He does not announce his theme and parts according to the usual standards, but nevertheless his sermons are well organized and centralized in a dominant thought which is addressed and applied to the hearer both by direct teaching and by carefully chosen illustration. No minister, of course, should be a mere copyist of another's labor of love; nevertheless, not even the best preacher can do his work suc-

cessfully without continuous study of such sermons as present the Word of God in a telling way. Dr. Baer, we believe, is a pastor whose sermons are worth careful study, especially those offered in this volume, since they expound the much neglected Old Testament texts that are so full of meaning and instruction for our age. He uses the expository method of preaching in a masterly manner, and his sermons, though brief, are textual, timely, and effective. We therefore recommend them to our brethren in the ministry.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

In the Minister's Workshop. By Halford E. Luccock. Published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 254 pages, 8×5½. \$2.00.

This is a book for preachers on preaching. In a unique way it stresses the fundamentals of homiletics. It is written in a fascinating style. Any preacher who reads it carefully and applies what it says to his preaching technique will be a better preacher, presenting the truths of God's Word in the best manner possible. The chapter on "The Bible as a Source of Preaching" is excellent. Some of the other chapter headings are: "The Importance of Preaching," "Preaching to Life Situations," "Collecting and Assimilating Material," "Oft when the Word is on Me to Deliver," and "Making the Unconscious Mind an Ally." All told there are twelve chapters. The benefit the preacher will derive from the book is worth many times its price. It is in the interest of better preaching that we recommend its purchase and study.

J. H. C. FRITZ

The Larger Evangelism. By John R. Mott. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 103 pages, 5¼×7½. \$1.00.

Evangelism Today. By Samuel Marinus Zwemer. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York. 125 pages, 5¼×7½.

Both of these books stress the need of greater efforts on the part of the Christian Church to bring the Gospel of Christ to a sinful, war-torn world. While Zwemer more definitely than Mott defines evangelism as the proclamation of the vicarious life, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, both men are advocates of unionism, wiping out denominational lines, joining hands as long as a few fundamental truths are accepted. Yet both men are ardent missionaries, and a perusal of these books will help to imbue the reader with the desire to emulate the evident zeal for the spreading of the Gospel that animates the authors.

THEO. LAETSCH

In Quest of a Kingdom. By Leslie D. Weatherhead. Published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York. 268 pages, 8×5½. \$2.00.

The author has established his reputation as a specialist in psychology. From the standpoint of psychology this book offers many helpful suggestions in guidance and counseling. The parables of the Kingdom are briefly explained especially in the light of oriental customs, and then the author draws significant lessons and makes timely applications. Unfortunately, the kingdom which the author describes is not the kingdom of God's grace in Christ, but a kingdom of right human relationships. "God's plan is to bring the whole world, every nation in

it, every community in it, every individual in it, into a family, bound together by the family spirit, sharing the privileges and the needs, the joys and the sorrows. I think it was to teach this great truth that Jesus talked so much about the kingdom of God." (P. 37 f.) Men enter this kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of right relations, when they "see goodness as the nature of the person they love and with whom they long to be in the closest possible relationship, and they will find that jollier still." (69.) Establish friendly relations with God, with the members of your family, with your associates, with all men. And Christ will help you, for His "friendship changed people's lives." (261.) We appreciated Weatherhead's psychology. There are good common-sense suggestions for practical Christianity. But the reader must discard Weatherhead's theology.

F. E. MAYER

Liberty Through Luther. By Dr. J. M. Weidenschilling. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 16 pages. 5 cents each, post-paid; 50 cents for 12; \$3.50 for 100. Postage extra.

A children's service for the Reformation Festival. It is arranged for Vespers. Instead of the question-and-answer method, that of recitation by the children is used. The following topics are thus developed: I. The Bondage of the Soul. II. Preparations for the Day of Liberation. III. Luther the Liberator. IV. The Liberty We Enjoy as Children of the Reformation.

A good service, practical and edifying.

W. G. POLACK

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson, St. Louis 18, Mo.:

Concordia Bible Teacher. By Dr. J. M. Weidenschilling. Edited by Rev. A. C. Mueller, January, 1945.

Concordia Bible Student. By Dr. J. M. Weidenschilling. Edited by Rev. A. C. Mueller. January, 1945.

Food on the Way. Daily Devotions, December 22, 1944, to February 13, 1945, by the Rev. Arthur Brunn, D. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Das Heil des Herrn. Kurze Andachten, vom 22. Dezember 1944 bis zum 13. Februar 1945, by the Rev. Herm. Harms, Davenport, Iowa.

To Our Subscribers

It has been our custom to retain the names of our subscribers on our lists for two numbers after the subscription has expired, so that the subscriptions could be continued without interruption in case a renewal came in late. We were very happy to follow this plan at extra expense, but we are now unable to continue this policy because of present conditions.

Our Government has insisted that we reduce consumption of paper and eliminate all possible waste. Because of the restriction in the use of paper it will become necessary to discontinue subscriptions for all of our periodicals with the last number paid for under the subscription agreement. We shall, however, continue our policy of reminding our subscribers of the expiration of the subscription by inserting the usual number of notices in the second last and the last numbers of the periodicals they receive. It is our sincere hope that our subscribers will co-operate with us and the Government by renewing their subscriptions promptly upon receipt of the first notice.

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