

12-1-1948

Book Review. - Literatur

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Recommended Citation

Arndt, W. (1948) "Book Review. - Literatur," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 19, Article 79.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol19/iss1/79>

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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.

The Communion of Saints. A Study of the Origin and Development of Luther's Doctrine of the Church. By Herman Amberg Preus, M. Th., Ph. D., Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Symbolics, Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis 15, Minn. 172 pages, 6x9. \$2.00 net.

The author of this book is peculiarly well qualified for the investigation of questions involving careful research and the weighing of evidence. After graduation from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, he turned to the law as his chosen profession and duly received the coveted LL. B. But the law was not able to hold him. He soon took up the study of theology and earned the Master's degree in this subject. Next he studied abroad in the universities of Edinburgh, Oslo, Leipzig, Paris, and Tuebingen. In the first-named school the Ph. D. was conferred on him. For eight years he served as pastor, and since 1936 he has held the chair of New Testament exegesis and symbolics at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. The book before us is a valuable contribution to the Luther literature of our age. Originally delivered as a course of lectures, the material is not treated pedantically, but with refreshing ease and liveliness. The required documentation is always submitted. The quotations from Luther are often taken directly from the Weimar Edition, in which the works of the Reformer are printed as he himself issued them. The reader will be struck with the wide acquaintance with Luther's writings which the author evinces.

The table of contents informing the reader of what he is to expect runs thus: I. Luther and the Doctrine of the Church in History. Chapter One: Luther and the Problem of the Church; Chapter Two: Luther and the Ancient Tradition (Back to the Scriptures, Traditions versus *The Tradition*, The Tradition from St. Paul to Luther). II. Luther the Roman Catholic. Chapter Three: Luther the Obedient Son (His Early Environment and the Doctrine of the Church; First Stages in the Development of the Doctrine); Chapter Four: Luther the Catholic Critic (Lectures on the Psalms and on Romans); Chapter Five: Luther the Rebel (The Indulgence Controversy; The Leipzig Disputation). III. Luther the Reformer. Chapter Six: The Communion of Saints; Chapter Seven: The Object of Our Faith; Chapter Eight: The Perennial Reformation; Chapter Nine: The Experience of Holy Communion; Chapter Ten: The Keys of the Kingdom.

Dr. Preus does not dodge problems for the sake of proving or salvaging a pet theory. He bravely faces, for instance, the difficult question whether Luther believed there were two kinds of church, a visible and an invisible one. These are his conclusions as to Luther's position: "1. The Church according to its nature is the Communion of Saints, the fellowship of believers, the Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God. 2. As such it is spiritual and invisible, perceptible only to faith. 3. This one Church manifests

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its presence on earth in assemblies of men where the Word is preached and the Sacraments administered according to the Word of God" (p. 89).

We have here a discussion which is not only historically sound in its portrayal of Luther's views as far as we are able to judge, but which in its underlying theology agrees with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and beautifully sets forth the great truths pertaining to the *Una Sancta* in which our faith rejoices.

W. ARNDT

An Introduction to Christian Apologetics. By Edward John Carnell. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich. 379 pages, including a glossary, an index of Scripture passages, one of proper names, and one of subjects. 9x6. \$3.50.

We cordially recommend this fine new popular apologetic both to our pastors and teachers and to our intelligent laymen, especially to our young people attending colleges and universities where they are facing the temptations of infidelity. For our student pastors this is perhaps a "must" book, since it discusses many of the problems which confront our thinking and searching young students. The book is the Wm. Eerdmans Evangelical Book Award, which netted the author the sum of \$5,000 besides royalties. Professor Carnell has served for three years as professor of Philosophy at Gordon College of Theology and Missions, Boston, and as professor of Philosophy of Religion at Gordon Divinity School, Brookline, Mass. He has now been called to the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., for the chair of Systematic Theology and will take up his duties there this fall. A graduate of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., in 1941, he continued his studies at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., where he earned his Th. B. and Th. M. degrees, graduating in 1944. In 1946 he received the S. T. M. degree from Harvard Divinity School, where he is now completing his work for the Th. D. degree. He is also a candidate for the Ph. D. degree at Boston University, where he has studied under the outstanding contemporary personalist Prof. E. S. Brightman. He is a member of the American Philosophical Association and of the National Association of Biblical Instructors. His religious convictions are those of a Reformed Fundamentalist who believes in the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture, the deity of Christ, His vicarious atonement, and salvation by grace through faith in Christ. Still a young man in his thirties, he writes with great simplicity and directness, not trying to veil his thoughts by means of unintelligible terminology, but, nevertheless, profoundly and learnedly in words adapted to the understanding of the average layman. The word "Introduction" in the title shows the author's modesty, for his apologetic is more than a mere introduction, namely, a thorough discussion of the problem of a sane and rational world view for a generation that finds it difficult to adjust itself to an adequate philosophy of life in a shifting, changing, questioning world crisis. Professor Carnell believes that our traditional Christian world view satisfies every demand of the human heart and mind, whereas there is no other world view, projected by unbelieving philosophers, that satisfies groping man in his great soul sorrow. The book is divided into three parts: 1. The need of a Christian world view;

2. The rise of the Christian world view; and 3. The implications of the Christian world view, which is followed by a "Conclusion," consisting of a "summary" and a "recapitulation." While the book is a valuable contribution to modern popular apologetic literature, the Lutheran reader may bear in mind that the viewpoint of the author is that of a Fundamentalist and that, while the Reformed approach is not overly noticeable, it, nevertheless, does appear every now and then. But, upon the whole, here is a battleground where both Lutherans and Calvinists may meet to fight the common foe of rational Christian thinking, the negation of God and His works by atheists, materialists, Modernists, and others. The book must be studied thoroughly to be appreciated fully, and that will take considerable time and thought. Only that way, however, is fair to the author and will secure for the reader the blessings offered to the Christian reader in this timely and telling defense of the Christian way of thinking and living.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

Practical Exposition of First Peter, Verse by Verse. By J. Nieboer, evangelist and Bible teacher, editor of monthly paper *Our Daily Walk*. *Our Daily Walk*, Publisher, 1158 W. 20th St., Erie, Pa. 328 pages, 5½×8. \$3.00.

According to the publisher's blurb, "This work is designed to be a ready reference work for the busy student. . . . It is strongly fundamental and very thorough. The controversial sections are not neglected, neither are they overemphasized. It is not dry reading like the ordinary commentary, but free and easy and interspersed with interesting illustrations." A perusal of the volume shows that we are here not dealing with a scientific commentary, but with a work that submits practical comments on the various verses of the Epistle. Whoever looks for a thorough theological discussion of any point in the Epistle will be disappointed. We submit as sample a few sentences from the comments on 1:2: "Election has been a subject greatly discussed amongst Christians. It has been difficult for many to reconcile it with man's free will, which without question is also taught in the Word. Because of this difficulty many have cast aside one or the other. Some preach nothing but election and others have no room for it at all. It is only in man's mind that they are contradictory, but even if they seem so, is no reason to disbelieve either one. Both are certainly needed to an understanding of God and to the preaching of the Gospel. Election is viewed from various angles in the Scriptures. We are elect or chosen out of the world (John 15:19). We are elected to salvation (1 Thess. 1:4, 5). We are chosen to some special service (Acts 9:15, also 1 Pet. 2:9). We are elected to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). This is all according to the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). The election of God in no way lessens the responsibility of man to repent and to believe the Gospel. We read in Acts 17:30, 'And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.'" It will be seen, the possibility of being misunderstood is here not avoided. On the preaching of Christ in prison the author says that "it would seem as though Christ felt it enough to make a public statement of victory to these spirits in prison"—a view with which we entirely agree. Definitely the so-called

"second chance" is rejected. Concerning Baptism in connection with 1 Pet. 3:20 the author makes remarks which show that he is an immersionist. Further remarks of his reveal that as to the efficacy of Baptism he holds to the Reformed position. All in all, it must be said that the work contains many intensely stimulating and worth-while comments, but that its theology is not that of the Lutheran Confessions. W. ARNDT

Women of the Bible. By Algot Theodor Lundholm. Published by Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill. 270 pages, 5¼ x 7¾. \$2.50.

In his Preface the author says, "The following pen pictures of some of the outstanding women of the Bible were originally prepared for the study period at the regular meetings of the women's organization in two churches where the author served as pastor during twenty-two years. In answer to numerous requests they were offered for publication, since little or no material was available for this purpose at that time. *Women of the Bible* in two volumes was first published in 1923. The first printing was followed by a second, and now this new edition in one volume is offered to the public."

The author's correct view of the exalted position which God has given unto woman he expresses in these words, "In the second chapter of Genesis we read that God said: 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.' In these words the Creator Himself designated woman's work and sphere in life. He has for all time settled that question. To be a wife and mother is the function of woman, and as such she reaches her highest development, renders her greatest service to humanity, and attains her greatest joy and happiness in this life. . . . As womanhood goes, so goes the world. Her morality is the moral barometer of the human race. When the morality of womanhood is high, the morality of mankind is high. When her morality is low, the moral standard of the human race is lowered. This fact, verified by history, places a great responsibility upon the woman, but it also opens up to her a glorious opportunity. Unless woman will sense that responsibility and grasp the opportunity, the morality and spirituality of mankind will sink to lower levels until the Biblical ideal of both may be lost. The ideal of womanhood seems to have changed in recent years. To be what the Creator intended her to be, a woman, seems to have lost its appeal, as well as to do what He intended her to do: mother the human race. She hungers for what she calls emancipation, freedom from bonds which have become oppressive to her sex. She wants to be what man is and to do what man does, even to copy his vices. The Christian religion grants her the equality she wants and should demand: equality of worth; and with that she should be satisfied. In the eyes of the Creator man and woman are equals, but their spheres of activity in life are different; and to that sphere each must be true. In the sphere in which God has placed them let them vie with each other in loving God and serving humankind and make their ability the measure of their contribution." (Pp. 3, 8.)

Over thirty pen pictures of women of the Bible are presented. The language is simple and beautiful, the description vivid, the lessons to be learned clearly expressed. Pastors desiring to preach

a series of sermons on women of the Bible, or looking for material to present to their women's organizations, will in this book find good and abundant material.

J. H. C. FRITZ

How We Got Our Denominations. By Stanley I. Stuber. Association Press, New York. 1948. 224 pages, 7½×5. \$2.50.

This primer on church history is written primarily for the layman. It sketches the history of the Christian Church from its beginning to the present, with particular emphasis on the origin and chief doctrines of American denominations. Dr. Stuber is Director of Public Relations of the Northern Baptist Convention and head of its World Relief activities. He also holds various interdenominational positions. This book is his bid for a unified, co-ordinated Protestant program of interdenominational co-operation. It is obvious that he is prepared to co-operate on the broadest possible doctrinal basis.

L. W. SPITZ

Evangelisch-lutherischer Volkskalender auf das Jahr 1948. Evangelische Verlagsanstalt G. m. b. H., Berlin. 96 Seiten.

Der uns allen dem Namen nach bekannte Buchdrucker und Verleger Johannes Herrmann in Zwickau, Sachsen, unser Glaubensbruder, schreibt, dass dies der Kalender unserer lutherischen Freikirchen in Deutschland sei. Es sind das die evangelisch-lutherische Freikirche, die evangelisch-lutherische Kirche im fruheren Altpreussen (Breslau) und die evangelisch-lutherische Fluechtlings-Missionskirche (hauptsaechlich aus Polen vertriebene Leute). Herr Herrmann fuegt hinzu: "Viele Lutheraner drueben wuerden gewiss dankbar sein, wenn sie diesen Kalender ihren deutschen Bekannten und Verwandten zuschicken koennten. Ich waere gern bereit, diese Exemplare kostenlos zu versenden. Mein Neffe, Martin Herrmann, 834 Greenwood Avenue, St. Joseph, Mich., ist bereit, Adressen in Empfang zu nehmen und mir herueber zu schicken. Wer etwas dafuer bezahlen will, ca. 25 Cent, koennte es an Martin Herrmann in St. Joseph, Mich., schicken. . . . Falls die Bestellungen erst im Herbst hier einlaufen, dann schicke ich den neuen Jahrgang 1949."

Wie seine Vorgaenger, enthaelt dieser Kalender viel gesunden, erfrischenden Lesestoff. Besonders interessant fuer uns sind die Artikel ueber die hervorragenden Doktoren der Theologie Karl Martin Willkomm (saechsische Freikirche) und Rudolph Rocholl (Breslau). Interessante Bilder schmuecken das kleine Werk, dem wir weite Verbreitung wuenschen.

W. ARNDT

The Prophet's Mantle. By George W. Truett, D. D., LL. D. Edited by Powhatan W. James, Th. D., D. D. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich. 206 pages, 5×7½. \$2.50.

The late George W. Truett, formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., was known as a conservative evangelical preacher. In this volume, the third in The Truett Memorial Series of sermons, Old Testament texts are treated. Since the Old Testament is a much neglected book, any good sermon books on Old Testament texts will prove to be valuable to the preacher, encouraging him to study the Old Testament and its use both for sermon texts and for illustrations.

J. H. C. FRITZ

Real Living Takes Time. By Hazen G. Werner. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York, N. Y. 184 pages. \$2.00.

A very readable book dealing with the solution of life's many problems, but failing to state what real Christian living is. Though faith in the power and invincibility of God is suggested as the potent weapon against our fears, faith in the sin-atoning Christ finds no mention as the real essence of Christianity. Read by, or presented to, Christians whose faith is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, the author's suggestions may help to find the solution to the many problems of daily living.

O. E. SOHN

The Lutheran Church and the Negro. By John H. C. Fritz, D. D. 15 pages, 3½×6. 6 cents; dozen, 60 cents, plus postage; 100, \$4.50, plus postage. Order from Concordia Publishing House.

This timely tract is published at the request and with the approval of the Missionary Board of the Synodical Conference. After demonstrating that the Lutheran Church has been aware of its obligation to preach the Gospel to all nations regardless of race or color, the author develops the thesis that our attitude toward the Negro should not differ from that which we take toward other races. Yet, even though we are all one in Christ Jesus, it does not follow that a Christian congregation will under any and all circumstances include in its membership Christians of any color, race, or nationality. God has granted us a certain amount of freedom, just as with respect to marriage or intimate friendships. Membership in a particular congregation will be determined by personal choice, the law of love, wisdom, and other factors. Love must be exercised by all concerned.

O. E. SOHN

Catholic Marriage Contract. By G. W. Fischer. Northwestern Publishing House, 935—7 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee, Wis. 6 pages, 7×9. 10 cents; dozen, \$1.08, plus postage.

This is an authenticated, photostatic copy of the marriage contract used in the archdiocese of Milwaukee in cases of mixed marriage between Catholics and non-Catholics. Besides certain information concerning the contracting parties, it contains the antenuptial agreement as well as an application for a dispensation for the Catholic party for the unholy alliance. Numerous provisions not intended for the eyes of the non-Catholic are printed in Latin. The author appends two pages of explanatory notes. — Every pastor ought to have a copy of this publication for his own accurate grasp of the issues involved as well as for more definite counseling.

O. E. SOHN

Glimpses of Paul. By George M. Strombeck. Christian Service Press, Moline, Ill. 88 pages, flexible paper binding, 6×4. 25 cents.

One rejoices to see books on St. Paul's life and work appearing in a ceaseless stream. Evidently writers and lecturers continue to find inspiration in his writings and in the sketches of his career given by St. Luke in the Book of Acts. The present book is a humble one, but whoever buys it will, I think, not regret the purchase. The high spots of Paul's work are briefly stated in fifteen chapters and are written about with warmth. The book

can well serve as basis for Sunday evening discourses or for lectures before the various societies of a congregation. Here and there a slight inaccuracy has slipped in, but the general value remains unimpaired. Thus, the commendation of Mark is not addressed to the church at Thessalonica, but to the church of Colosse (p. 47). Evidently the author quoted from memory and did not stop to verify the reference.

W. ARNDT

Luther For Today. By Russell A. Peterson. Enterprise Publishing Company, Flandreau, S. Dak. 1948. Paper cover. 56 pages, 7×5. 50 cents.

In the two lectures contained in this little book, Pastor Peterson has Luther unfold his educational theories as they have, according to the author's opinion, developed in the course of the past four hundred years. Although any serious effort, like the present, towards a Lutheran philosophy of education is to be welcomed, the literary device of putting Luther behind a twentieth-century lectern does not seem to be particularly effective. L. W. SPITZ

The Preparation of Sermons. By Andrew W. Blackwood. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York and Nashville, 1948. 272 pages, 9¼×6. \$3.00.

No field of theology is cluttered with more light-weight publications than preaching. Hence it is especially pleasant to be able to report a new book on preaching which should rank with the substantial and permanently valuable items. Professor Blackwood of Princeton is a prolific author in the domain of preaching and pastoral theology. In this book he puts down a summary and distillate of his many years as pastor and teacher of pastors. Every page serves the dual purpose of bringing wise and experienced counsel on preaching, and of rooting the preacher to the Word of God. The author knows how to appreciate and properly to exploit the church year as a source of preaching. Especially useful, to this reader, are the sections on writing and delivering the sermon. Included are a chapter on radio preaching, and another on the usually neglected relation of the sermon to the service of worship as a whole. Here is basic detail for the beginning preacher, here is deepening insight for the experienced one. The book covers the subject, but not so that it snuffs the fire out.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

The Plight of Freedom. By Paul Scherer. Harper and Brothers Publishers, New York, 1948. 227 pages, 8¼×5½. \$2.50.

These chapters comprise a series of lectures at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Austin, Tex., which in turn were based on the Cole Lectures at Vanderbilt University in 1945. They are characteristic of Dr. Scherer's style, which is blunt in the expression of the individual sentences, but rich in its wealth of association and allusion. The author purposes that the freedoms which Christianity seeks to safeguard are rooted in 1) the sovereignty of God, 2) the dignity of man, 3) the Incarnation, 4) the brotherhood of men, and 5) the eternal purpose of Christ. The problem of the world and the Church is that Christianity has not been sufficiently busy in exerting these dynamics.

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER