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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.

Walvoord, J F and R B Zuck (editors) The Bible Knowledge Commentary

An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty Old Testament

Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985, 1589 pp hard \$27.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

This balanced commentary of the Old Testament by the faculty of Dallas Seminary will find a welcomed audience among dispensationalists. The content is well written, scholarly and current. The introductory remarks, outline and bibliography for each book enhance the conservative commentary. Although there will be moments of disagreement, they will be few. Because this volume deals with problem passages and alleged discrepancies it will no doubt become the favorite one volume commentary of many. It is well worth the price.

Bromiley, G W general editor
The International Standard Bible
Encyclopedia III K-P

Grand Rapids. William B Eerdmans Publ Co, 1986, 1060 pp hard \$37.50; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

Those who have found the original ISBE a helpful reference work will enjoy this new edition even more. The international team of scholars have rewritten, updated and expanded the subject matter. The extensive use of recent data and the listing of more recent writings has made this work current and very valuable. Only a few articles are retained from the early edition. All names and places mentioned in the Bible are included as well as other pertinent information. The publishers plan to complete the set in four volumes.

Bruce, F F general editor (revised edition)

The International Bible Commentary with the New International Version

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ Co, 1986, 1629 pp hard \$24.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

This volume is a new edition of the 1979 edition and an expansion of the 1969 publication. A New Testament Commentary. While making a few additions to the bibliographies (dispensational works are excluded), the articles and commentaries are basically the same. One major change is the use of the NIV in place of the RSV text. The work is evangelical and from an international team of English speaking writers, but the covenant theology of the authors will be a disappointment to many readers. As is usually true with one volume commentaries, the discussions are brief and uneven. While some are excellent others are objectionable. There are twenty-eight introductory articles which still have value though they are dated.

Whitcomb, John C Daniel

Chicago: Moody Press, 1985, 173 pp paper \$5.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

Daniel has long been the object of attack by the liberals. Refreshingly Dr Whitcomb upholds the authenticity and authorship of the book. His comments combine genuine scholarship presented in clear fashion with a genuine love for God. As I read this commentary, I was reminded of a class in Daniel taken from the author nearly two decades ago. It was through that class that I developed a great love for Daniel. This practical dispensational approach will provide the same opportunity for every reader. Minor differences of interpretation do not detract from the value of this work.

Mitchell, John G (compiled by Dick Bohrer)

An Everlasting Love "A Devotional Study of the Gospel of John"

Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1982, 426 pp hard \$13.95; reviewed by John M Garber

This work compiled from sermons of Dr Mitchell is an excellent. theologically sound and Godhonoring commentary on the gospel of John. The everlasting love of God shown in the life and work of lesus Christ as demonstrated in this commentary will bring the reader to a greater love and appreciation for the Son of God. Rich with suggestive sermon material, this is a helpful tool to make the Gospel message clear and understandable to the multitudes. Therefore, this work will be a valuable addition to any preacher's or teacher's library.

Guthrie, Donald

Exploring God's Word "A Guide to Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians"

Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans Publ, 1984, 222 pp paper \$6.95; reviewed by John M Garber

This is not a book to be read through at one or even several sittings, but rather a guide for the study of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. It is a book of outlines including minimal commentary. The goal of the author is to help the Bible student to gain an orderly understanding of the meaning of the text and therefore discover what the text actually says. We believe the author's goal has been well accomplished. Help in making a personal and practical application to the student's daily life is evident. The book might well be a useful tool for personal Bible study or a very good help for a Sunday School teacher or even a pastor in the preparation for a good exposition of the Scripture portions.

Ludwig, Charles

Ludwig's Handbook of New Testament Rulers & Cities

Denver: Accent Books, 1983, 243 pp paper \$6.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

This volume, an updated version of

Cities in New Testament Times and Rulers of New Testament Times (published in 1976), provides a popular insight into the lives and locations of the secular rulers and places which had an influence over the early Christians. The bibliography is helpful but too brief. The lack of footnotes will be disappointing for the more serious reader. Sunday school teachers and Bible college students wishing a popular view of the first century A D as it relates to the New Testament will find this volume helpful.

Horsley, Richard A and John S Hanson Bandits, Prophets, and Messiahs— Popular Movements at the Time of Iesus

Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1985, 271 pp hard \$19.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

Little has been done in the study of New Testament times to discover the significance of the common people, the peasants of Palestine. By analyzing the histories of Josephus, the gospels and other fragmentary accounts, the authors argue for a new appraisal of the sects of the first century in light of the social situation, especially among the poor class.

Social uprisings were a continual problem which came in different forms. Social bandits plundered from the Romans to survive. Messianic movements under an anointed leader appealed to the peasant class. Prophets with visions of eschatological deliverance led many to fall under the swift and harsh judgment of the Romans. Some prophets appeared to pattern their preaching after the OT prophets and became a threat to lewish leaders. The Zealots were only one peasant group of the first century who resisted the Roman legions. The Sicarii were a politically aware group of intellectuals whose plan of selective assassination failed, forcing them to withdraw to Masada.

While the authors are not conservative in their attitude toward Scripture they have injected numerous insights into the study of the first century C E which need a hearing.

Teringo, I Robert

The Land and People Jesus Knew

Minneapolis: Bethany House Publ, 1985, 263 pp hard \$24.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

"A one-of-a-kind book" is a valid claim for this visual presentation of first century life in Palestine. Some 250 drawings and abbreviated comments provide for a reader of any age very helpful insights. The artist's sketches are excellent and correct in details. The subject matter chosen covers all the facets of life both Iewish and Gentile. The Scripture index indicates the places in the New Testament where the material applies. An extensive bibliography for further reading is also included. Every Christian family should own this volume. Those planning a trip to Israel would greatly benefit from mastering its material.

Townsley, David and Russell Bjork Scripture Index to the New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Index to Selected Extrabiblical Literature

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Corporation, 1985, 320 pp paper \$8.95; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

For those familiar with the value of The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology this volume will be a welcomed addition. It is now possible to do an extended search of a given passage of Scripture that was cited in any of the three volumes published previously. Also valuable is the index of extrabiblical literature which enables the reader to study the same words and references pertaining to them in Jewish,

Christian and pagan literature. Corrections have been made of the erroneous citations found in the original three volumes. Additional benefits are given on page 9. All serious students of Scripture will purchase this volume, as it will open new doors in New Testament study and save valuable time

Zodhiates, Spiros (ed)

The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible, King James Version

Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1984, 1743 pp cloth \$39.00; reviewed by Gordon H Lovik

The author has added Strong's concordance and numerical system to a red letter edition of the KJV. By adding his own brief exegesis of selected passages and his own lexicon, he has provided a way to study the Bible through word meaning. However, this method is dangerous since a word has meaning only in its context. His personal notes have varying value. The recurring comment concerning the aorist tense, an action "to take place at one particular time, once for all" (p vii), is demonstrably untrue. This reviewer cannot recommend this wellintended but expensive project.

Erickson, Millard J Christian Theology Volume 3

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985, pp 845-1274 hard \$19.95; reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

The superior quality of this set continues unabated through doctrines of the Holy Spirit, salvation, church and last things. The author's writing style is a joy, never tedious. His sole dependence on Scripture is evident. Contemporary surveys are adequate. A pastor or teacher will perhaps feel that certain areas need improvement. The author claims himself a Calvinist and favors posttribulation premillennialism. But

this set is clearly a twentieth century classic which should be read by every student and serious pastor.

Morris A Inch Saga of the Spirit

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985, 280 pp paper \$12.95; reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo

Subtitled A Biblical, Systematic, and Historical Theology of the Holy Spirit, this book by a veteran missionary is a popular presentation from three viewpoints: historical views, the over-all systematic teaching, and clarifications among Christians. The style of writing is flowing, unhindered by scholarly devices. The author incorporates many personal observations and exhortations. His chapter summaries are very helpful.

Walters, Richard P Jealousy, Envy, Lust: The Weeds of Greed

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Corporation, 1985, 147 pp paper \$5.95; reviewed by John M Garber

Dirty sins which plague us all are dealt with by the author who has loaded his solutions with Scripture. He notes that these sins look like legitimate desires. Jealousy is often mistaken for "protecting" what is mine. Envy for "achieving" what should be mine. Lust for "loving" what I want to be mine. Honesty in identifying these destructive weeds. followed by confession, repentance and reconciliation with God is emphasized. The healing may take time and is painful, but the alternative is a steady torture that leads to self-destruction. This is a useful book especially for counselors who frequently need to guide people to realize that their problems are often self-inflicted.

Parshall, Phil

Beyond the Mosque: Christians

within Muslim Community

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985, 256 pp paper \$9.95; reviewed by Dan Suleiman

Since there is a great need to understand all the Biblical and practical aspects of missions or crosscultural church planting, Phil Parshall has devoted his life to communicating the "good news" to the Muslim.

In his book he discusses the dynamics of Ummah (community) and its barrier to the missionary. He proposes that "extraction evangelism must stop among Muslims. Instead, they must remain as light and salt...within the broad perimeters of Islamic Society." He realizes the difficulty of the convert remaining within Islamic Ummah and vet simultaneously becoming a member of a new community. With his commendable knowledge of societal function and cultural patterns among Muslims, he offers thoughtprovoking solutions by challenging the traditional modern missionary movement.

Some of these methods are: becoming proficient in the language; adapting to their society and culture instead of changing their culture or westernizing them; developing an appreciative understanding of their cultural and religious background; having maximum social and professional interaction; not reproducing western-style denominations among the converts; not incorporating western administration or business techniques in the eastern world; adjusting one's mind to the Muslim mindset; persisting after the male or the head of the family since they are the decision makers and leaders in their society; empathizing with the strong ties between the mosque and family; not demanding immediate change from the Muslim's rituals; showing respect to their beliefs: evaluating the missionary's standard of living and lifestyle since he is in grave suspicion; developing good personal evangelism skills by having respectful dialogue and not arguing, because any form of confrontation becomes counter-productive; realizing a missionary is a foreigner in their Arab world; using the Ouran in witnessing; implementing a hermeneutic that fits their set of theological presuppositions to answer theological questions such as the deity of Christ, the Trinity, and authority of Scriptures; making concessions respecting Christian customs and traditions instead of forcing them into a western mold: emphasizing the people of God more than man-made structure, even if a building does not materialize; and training the converts on the local level, as close physically as possible to where believers live.

Phil Parshall has a working knowledge of the Quran and Hadith (oral tradition) among Muslims and therefore is able to discuss the many sects within Islam. He extensively quotes Muslim leaders around the world and missiologists. The footnotes are great and the bibliography excellent. This is a must for anyone interested in becoming a missionary to Muslims and is highly recommended for any missionary or Christian who wishes to effectively communicate the "good news" of Christ to other peoples of the world.

Vaudrey, Stephen J How to Win Your Family to Christ

Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1985, 122 pp paper \$6.95; reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

One of the series of Steeple Books, which are intended to provide practical applications of religion for today's world, this book offers fresh encouragement and insight into the problem of reaching unsaved family members with the gospel. Vaudrey deals with the philosophy and practice of family evangelism. Suggestions for winning various

types of relatives and for answering various attitudes are helpful. The book will be especially useful for new Christians.

Vines, Jerry
A Guide to Effective Sermon
Delivery

Chicago: Moody`Press, 1986, 170 pp cloth \$9.95 reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

Sound homiletical structure must be communicated through effective sermon delivery. The aim of this book is to provide help for preachers to communicate God's Word more effectively without abusing their voices. The author treats five aspects of sermon delivery: mechanical, mental, rhetorical, psychological, and spiritual. Exercises for improving vocal technique are suggested. The book will prove useful to preachers in training as well as to those already in the ministry.

Curran, Dolores
Stress and the Healthy Family

Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1985, 234 pp hard \$13.85; reviewed by Larry R Thornton

Here is a second excellent book by Dolores Curran. Her first book, Traits of a Healthy Family, sets forth the fifteen positive traits most commonly found in healthy families. This book shows how these healthy families handle stress by using their strengths and resources. The author has researched this topic thoroughly by survey and extensive study. She treats stress over family, couple relationship, money, children, time, responsibility, work, self-esteem and guilt. The book includes a survey on common stresses in the family which the reader can take, a list of the top stresses in order of priority, a list of family play activities and a good bibliography and index.

LaHaye, Tim
Sex Education Is for the Family

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1985, 208 pp hard \$10.95; reviewed by Larry R Thornton

Believing that God has given the responsibility for sex education to the family, Tim LaHave has performed a service for the Christian public by writing this book. He gives seven reasons why sex education does not belong in the public schools. In chapters two through six, parents are told how to talk to their children about sex (toddlers, preschool (4-5) vear olds), middle childhood (6-10 year olds), preadolescence (11-13 year olds) and teenagers). There are also excellent chapters on "Protecting Our Children from Sexual Abuse," "Guidelines for Dating," "Christian Moral Values," "What Do We Do When Everything Goes Wrong" (pregnancy out of marriage), "Venereal Disease" and "What Every Parent Needs to Know." The sex information appropriate for each age level and the guidelines as to how to communicate it are the best features of this book. This book is highly recommended to parents for educating their children regarding sex.

Howard, Mary Ann, RN

Blueprint for Health "How Does
Your Nutrition Stack Up?"

Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985, 154 pp paper \$6.95; reviewed by Evelyn M Gahman, RN

In I Cor 6:19-20 the born-again believer is reminded that his/her body is the "temple of the Holy Ghost." Many Christians are careful not to defraud that "temple" by the use of tobacco or alcohol, but many severely neglect the area of proper nutrition and diet.

The author believes that "all illness comes from a breakdown of the body's immune defense system, which can be caused by nutrient deficiencies from either poor food, poor absorption by the body, or depletion from stress or other

factors." Mrs Howard offers patterns and suggestions for evaluating one's own diet regime and ways to balance the diet with proper amounts of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, fiber, etc. Having personally experienced multiple health problems, the author speaks authoritatively on the benefits of proper nutrition as basic to disease prevention and good health maintenance. Principles set forth by the author are based on God's principles for a sound body, mind, and spirit.

Calladine, Carole One Terrific Year

Minneapolis: Winston Press. 1985, 212 pp paper \$12.95; reviewed by JoAnn Lovik

The distinctiveness of One Terrific Year is its seasonal, cyclical approach to the problems of child behavior. Beginning with the opening of the school year Calladine discusses each season as it affects the development and behavior of children. An explanation of causes and problems, helpful parenting tips, questions and answers, related topics, and a section on teens is included in each chapter. However, this is not a Bible-centered book. No Scripture is given in support of statements. Its contribution lies in its help for anticipating behavioral problems and taking appropriate action before difficulties arise.

Willis, Wesley R Make Your Teaching Count

Wheaton: SP Publications Inc. 1985, 140 pp paper \$4.95; reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

Subtitled "A Guide to Improve the Quality of Your Sunday School Teaching," Willis' book is built upon the presupposition that a teacher has not taught until the pupil has learned. Strengths include emphasis on teaching principles as well as facts,

developing specific behavioral goals for each lesson, using a variety of teaching methods, and motivating students to learn. A weakness is the lack of clarification regarding the use of such unbiblical methods as openended discussion. Nevertheless, the book will be challenging and beneficial to inexperienced and experienced Sunday School teachers alike.

Sire, James The Joy of Reading

Portland: Multnomah Press, 1978. 191 pp paper \$6.95; reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

In a culture hypnotized by the television and VCR, the joy of reading is often unrealized. Sire's work, subtitled "A Guide to Becoming a Better Reader," provides delightful encouragement to read more thoughtfully, intelligently, and frequently. The sections entitled "How to Read Slowly," "Identifying the Author's World View," and "Reading with a Christian Mind" are particularly good. Suggestions are given for reading non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. The author also deals with analysis of the context and knowing when and what to read. Contact with this book will be both refreshing and beneficial.

Gabler, Mel and Norma What Are They Teaching Our Children?

Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985, 192 pp paper \$5.95; reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

In this work, subtitled "What you can do about humanism and textbooks in today's public schools," the Gablers provide specific documentation of the indoctrination of public school children with secular humanism by textbook publishers. Individual chapters deal with humanism, anti-Americanism, sex education, despair, relativism,

mental child abuse, evolution, and the attack on the family. The final chapter suggests ways in which Christians can influence the textbooks used in the public schools supported by their taxes. Christians need to be informed and concerned about public school texts, for their children will live in a society shaped by the philosophies contained therein.

Peck, Richard

Rock: Making Musical Choices

Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1985, 164 pp paper \$4.95; reviewed by Jeffrey P Tuttle

From his own experience as a former rock performer and publisher of contemporary Christian music, Peck confronts the Christian's relationship to music—both religious and secular. Emphasizing the holiness of God, he offers practical guidance for establishing music standards. The application of Scripture and lack of sensationalism in the book are refreshing. In view of the importance of musical discern-

ment, this book is recommended to pastors, parents, young people, and Christians in general.

Berglund, Robert A Philosophy of Church Music

Chicago: Moody Press, 1985, 112 pp hard \$7.95; reviewed by Dean Kurtz

Since music occupies such a predominant part of the believer's public and private worship, it is imperative that every Christian develop a thoroughly biblical philosophy of music. The author of this book bemoans the lack of theological training among musicians and the lack of musical training among preachers. This volume will force readers to rethink goals and hopefully develop a music program that is consistent with the rest of their ministry. In evaluating the author's conclusions one must bear in mind that he is Lutheran and weak on personal separation. The book is short and the style is very readable by both minister and musician.

Rooks Received

Books pertinent to the work of a pastor are listed as received from publishers. This listing enables a pastor quickly to survey new publications and reprints as they become available. Books are listed which have been received since the last issue of the Journal. Some may also be reviewed in this and succeeding issues. Listing does not necessarily indicate approval or recommendation, only notification of availability.

ADAIR, John

Founding Fathers (The Puritans of England and America)

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, reprinted 1986, 302 pp paper \$10.95

ADAMS, Jay E

Competent to Counsel

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1970, 287 pp hard \$15.95

ADAMS, Jay E

Essays on Counseling

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1972, 265 pp paper \$9.95

ADAMS, Jay E

The Language of Counseling and the Christian Counselor's Wordbook

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1981, 90 pp paper \$7.95

ADAMS, Jav E

Lectures on Counseling

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, reprint, 1977, 276 pp_paper \$9.95

ADAMS, Jay E

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1980, 99 pp paper \$6.95

ADAMS, Jay E

Preaching With Purpose

Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, 1982, 162 pp paper \$7.95

ADAMS, Jay E

Solving Marriage Problems