

## 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.

Beale, David O

### **SBC House on the Sand?**

Greenville SC: Unusual Publications, 1985, 232 pp paper \$4.95, reviewed by W Vanhetloo

The great value of this book is its documentation. Bible-believing pastors and families who are in the Southern Baptist Convention need to use this documentation to weigh their loyalty to God. Putting truth above unity should continue to characterize Baptists. Contributing one dollar in an offering plate of a SBC church involves support of teaching for which God holds each believer accountable (II John 7-11). For example, such a contribution helps support a faculty member who labels as "reigning heresy" the belief that the Bible is the infallible Word of God (p 71). Others declare a full tomb rather than the empty tomb (p 60).

This book is not an attack. It is not vindictive. It does not make general charges. Instead it quotes exactly what has been written and taught. Its purpose is to aid and encourage born-again believers to support truth and to refuse to support error and opposition to the

Word of God. Especially helpful are introductory definitions (3-8) and the glossary (204-13). Grouping professors by schools is most beneficial. Every pastor and seminary student needs to possess this book. It is outstanding.

Burron, Arnold H

### **Discipline That Can't Fail**

Milford MI: Mott Media, 1984, 133 pp paper \$4.95, rev by G Lovik

Written by a professor of education who is a born-again Christian, this practical tool truly contains fundamentals for all parents on this key subject. He wisely sets forth that the primary goal of discipline is eternal life for the child. Because of Satan's intrusion into the world, every child is constantly being exposed to wickedness. A parent must understand that God's Word is the force for change in a child. Through parental teaching of the Bible, children are to learn of salvation, the differences between God and the world, how to deal with adversity and how to live by faith. His emphasis on parents being always united in discipline

unless they desire "guaranteed failure" is well stated. The child's primary response to discipline is the honoring of parents. However, parents must realize that Bible discipline is the loving shaping of the child to follow Jesus Christ. The insights, suggestions, and illustrations in this book are balanced and thought provoking. All parents would be wise to study and implement the truths of this book in their home.

Nash, Ronald H

### **Liberation Theology**

Milford: Mott Media, 1984, 226 pp cloth \$10.95, reviewed by M Stitzinger

Ronald Nash has edited a collection of timely essays about Latin American liberation theology. The objective of the book is three-fold: (1) an attempt to provide a serious, concentrated, and systematic critique of an area that has a dearth of useful literature, (2) a definition of this movement which exposes it as a system trying to solve the problems of the poor by active church involvement in marxist-socialist viewpoints, and (3) a critical analysis of liberation theology's outlook upon capitalism, Scripture, socialism, and politics. The essays are authored by contributors from several denominational perspectives who provide a rightful emphasis upon the misconceptions; inequities, biblical-theological-exegetical neglect; and continued impoverishment that is generated by liberation theology. This valuable book is recommended to the pastor or serious Bible student as an informative one-volume analysis of contemporary theological

trends occurring in third world countries. Also provided is a select bibliography for further references.

Eidsmoe, John

### **The Christian Legal Advisor**

Milford MI: Mott Media, 1984, 578 pp paper \$14.95, rev by J Tuttle

Intended to provide a comprehensive statement of the Christian view of the law as well as practical discussion of legal problems facing Christians, Eidsmoe's work will be of benefit to individuals and institutions. The background information, discussion, and advice are directed to the problems unique to the Christian community. Three major divisions deal with the Christian and God's law, the Christian and the Constitution, and the Christian and man's law. Legal terminology is sparingly employed and clearly defined. The book provides a handy reference tool for use in conjunction with competent legal counsel.

Kirwan, William T.

### **Biblical Concepts for Christian Counseling**

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984, 230 pp paper \$9.95, rev by L Thornton

This book is a case for integrating psychology and theology. It is the integration to a great extent of Karen Horney's psychoanalytic approach with biblical concepts and verses. The book is as much an attack on nouthetic counseling and Jay Adams as it is a presentation of Kirwan's approach to counseling. Kirwan's many criticisms of nouthetic counseling frequently

did not truly represent the characteristics of that approach. So many times, it seemed that he was attacking straw men. The book is interesting, especially when Kirwan tries to use Schaeffer, Calvin and Van Til against Adams, a visiting professor at Westminster Seminary, where Van Til taught. Many of the statements caused the reviewer to believe that some issues were a matter of semantics. Kirwan's exegetical work on the fall and its effects were helpful to the reviewer. The book is recommended to others for them to understand the latest efforts of a Christian counselor who integrates psychology and theology. As for the reviewer he is all the more convinced of biblical (nouthetic) counseling.

Laney, J Carl

### **The Divorce Myth**

Minneapolis: Bethany House Publ, 1981, 152 pp hard \$8.95, reviewed by Brian Heldt

Using an uncompromising dedication to literal interpretation and viewing the pertinent Scripture portions with a careful grammatical-historical hermeneutic, Mr Laney succinctly outlines his premise: divorce is totally unacceptable to God and must be viewed as a symptom of, but never a solution to marital problems. The format of this work is simple and straightforward with thought-provoking study questions at the close of each chapter. With reference to the pastoral office, the author presents a strict interpretation of I Timothy 3. The book ends with a panoramic chart of the main Scripture passages discussed and their importance in the divorce-

remarriage doctrine. The presentation is a truthful confrontation in a spirit of godly love and compassion. Every Christian owes to himself the consideration of Mr Laney's arguments on this vital issue.

Ludwig, Charles

### **Ludwig's Handbook of Old Testament Rulers and Cities**

Denver: Accent Books, 1984, 244 pp \$6.95 paper, rev by M Stitzinger

As described in the preface this work is "a plain book in simple language which attempts to present a glimpse of the years before and during Old Testament times by viewing some of the highlights." The book attempts two goals: (1) to show that the translation and interpretation of hieroglyphics (ancient Egyptian writing) and cuneiform (ancient Mesopotamian writing) are a key to amplifying numerous Old Testament events and (2) to focus upon select biblical rulers and cities which may be supplemented with extra-biblical data. Also provided are several useful appendices which list a sequenced chronology of Old Testament events and ancient historical events, a list of the judges, and a numerical account of the kings of Israel and Judah. This book must be classified as a popular rather than a scholarly treatment which relies upon secondary source materials. Its select bibliography is commendable but leaves out certain significant sources and it would be helpful if the entire work included footnotes. It is recommended as a beneficial introductory tool for the pastor, Sunday school teacher,

and inquisitive lay reader of Old Testament history.

Kistemaker, Simon J

**New Testament Commentary  
Hebrews**

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984, 464 pp hard \$18.95, rev by W Vanhetloo

Continuing the work (and format) of William Hendriksen, each section includes exegetical materials, doctrinal or practical considerations, and nuances of the Greek. The work is commendably exact and detailed (not tedious or useless). This is good, up-to-date, conservative scholarship. This, to supplement Homer Kent (also Baker) would be ample to provide a beginning pastor with dependable tools to mine the riches of this valuable NT book.

Evans, Louis H Jr

**The Communicator's  
Commentary Hebrews**

Waco: Word Books, 1985, 259 pp hard \$15.95, rev by W Vanhetloo

As a part of a full NT series, this study is up-to-date, clearly written, definitely helpful. Much is of the nature of practical application rather than strict exegesis. Contextual connections are well explained. Although not among the first five commentaries a young pastor will want to purchase for his study of the book of Hebrews, many will find this work very beneficial.

Aycock, Don M and  
Leonard George Goss

**Writing Religiously**

Milford MI: Mott Media, 1984,

258 pp hard \$13.95, rev by W Vanhetloo

Subtitled *A Guide to Writing Nonfiction Religious Books*, this book fulfills its intended purpose admirably. The authors demonstrate what they promote. Their research and documentation make a variety of information easily available. They cover the entire field: ideas, mechanics, editors, markets, contracts, even non-book material. Appendix C, stylebook, is especially helpful for college and seminary papers as well as for anticipated publication.

Young, G Douglas

**Young's Bible Dictionary**

Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1984, 640 pp hard \$14.95, rev by W Vanhetloo

Completed by Dr George Giacomakis Jr at the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem, this project had three goals: (1) an inexpensive one volume dictionary of the Bible, (2) an up-to-date evangelical dictionary (3) in English from the viewpoint of Jerusalem. Authors, editors and publishers were successful at all three. The type is clear. Identifications are brief but complete. Longer articles on archaeology, geography, history, Christ, Jerusalem, etc, are valuable. This is definitely a usable tool.

Bahat, Dan

**Carta's Historical Atlas of  
Jerusalem**

Jerusalem: Carta, Israel Map and Publ Co, 1983, 96 pp hard \$19.95, rev by W Vanhetloo

Maps appear for each historical period showing structures known from archaeology or ancient

records. The summaries and descriptions are clear. Information is accurate and current. Of special interest for Bible study are the first four chapters, from earliest evidences through the time of Jesus.

Weisberg, David B

**Texts from the Time of  
Nebuchadnezzar**

New Haven: Yale Univ Press,  
1980, 200 pp hard \$12.00, rev by W  
Vanhetloo

Such texts as these provide the raw material for understanding the backgrounds of the Bible. Texts reproduced are from the Yale and Nies collections, written from 605 to 581 BC. Special consideration is included in the introduction of materials having a

further contribution toward solving Darius' reference to Nebuchadnezzar III and Nebuchadnezzar IV (522-520 BC). Conclusion that one scribe was doodling (xviii) is intriguing.

Law, William

**A Serious Call to Holy Living**

Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1985,  
117 pp paper \$3.95, abridged  
paraphrased by Marvin D Hinten;  
rev by W Vanhetloo

These exhortations oppose pride in self or the world and the emptiness of religious ritual, promoting inner dedication. A pastor will find fresh analogies for his own ministry. The immature may need to be warned of doctrinal deficiencies.

*The secret of Baptist success is in  
putting truth before unity.*