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A table of contents for *Caribbean Journal of Evangelical Theology* can be found here:

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ISSN: 0799-1711

PROFESSIONAL
THEOLOGICAL
JOURNAL FOR
THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY

CJET

VOLUME
18

2019

Caribbean Journal of Evangelical Theology

CONTENTS

Page

- 1 **A THEOLOGY OF JOY**
 David Corbin
- 11 **ARE ALL RELIGIONS ALIKE?**
 Clinton Chisholm
- 25 **THE FUTURE IS NOW**
 Brendan Bain
- 36 **REFLECTIONS ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

 Anthony Chung
- 39 **THE BUGGERY LAW IN JAMAICA**

 Ricardo O’N Sandcroft
- 49 **Galatians 5 in Context**
 D V Palmer
- 65 **BOOK REVIEW:** *Living Wisely* (by Burchell Taylor)
 Marlene Roper

BOOK REVIEW

*Living Wisely:
Reflections on the
Wisdom Books*

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The Reverend Dr. Burchell Taylor was until recently the Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Half Way Tree in Kingston, Jamaica. He has served in various capacities of leadership for regional and worldwide church bodies, while lecturing part-time and leading Studies in Bible and related subjects, both locally and internationally.

He authored the book under review entitled, "Living Wisely – Reflections on the Wisdom Books." This was first published in 2014 by Caribbean Christian Publication.

As its name implies, the book deals with lessons to be learnt from the wisdom books i.e., Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes with special focus on the Caribbean context. For Taylor, the wisdom tradition focuses on the day-to-day struggles, which assist in making sense of life.

He opined that wisdom may not necessarily result in dynamism and creativity, which are practical and relevant to life changes and their own issues. Taylor has cautioned that although information will be considered from the three named books, (Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes) there will be no attempt to offer any detailed discussion of the individual books

as the emphasis will remain on the value of tradition which embraces the use of God-given capacities to engage existential realities.

The content in my estimation seems esoteric at times, particularly for readers who are not familiar with the relevance of the Bible. It requires readers to be acquainted with the Bible and would prove to be a good piece of literature for Bible scholars and students pursuing theological studies. This will by no means change the fact that the wisdom tradition will be relevant in comprehending the work which puts focus on God's activity throughout history.

In this literary type from a Caribbean point of view Dr Taylor has noted that the generic trajectory is the biblical source from which one draws to offer theological guidance. He has sought to make a case for attention to be given to the biblical wisdom tradition in particular reference to local and regional theological thinking. The book is a welcome contribution to the ongoing project of Caribbean Theology, and joins that of Dr Carlton Dennis' (*Proverbs and the People: Africa and Jamaica*) in its quest to mine this neglected part of the canon.