

NOTATIONES

Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles, by Simon J. Kistemaker. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990. Pp. 1010, including bibliography, Scripture and author indexes. \$29.99.

Here is one more volume in Baker's highly acclaimed and widely used *New Testament Commentary* series begun by William Hendriksen and continued capably by Simon Kistemaker.

This commentary features the author's own very readable translation of the text of Acts. His exposition is customarily solid, clear and concise, frequently referring the reader by footnotes to extended treatment of exegetical matters in scholarly writings. The reader will profit from Kistemaker's reliance upon authors old and new, from his balanced assessment of viewpoints ranging across the spectrum of evangelicalism.

The author and publisher are to be commended on this fine achievement, one that we hope and pray will serve God's people and their pastors for many years.

Nelson D. Kloosterman

The Life of Joy: An Exposition of Philippians 1 and 2, by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989. Pp. 235. \$14.99.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) pastored the Westminster Chapel in London from 1939 to 1968. This exposition, the first of two volumes of exposition of the letter to the Philippians, consists of sermons preached there between November 1947 and February 1948.

This volume shares the strengths of Lloyd-Jones' other expositions: the treatment *seriatim* of the text; attention to the apostle's flow of argument; expounding the passage in the context of doctrines central to the Christian faith. Its weaknesses arise in connection with the need for generality in covering the textual material, resulting frequently in a vague sense of the text's relevance or applicability.

Heartily recommended for every seminarian's and pastor's bookshelf!

Nelson D. Kloosterman

Spiritual Companions: An Introduction to the Christian Classics, by Peter Toon. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990. Pp. 210. \$9.99 (paper).

Emphasizing the uniqueness and superiority of the Bible as the Christian's primary source for cultivating spirituality, Toon acknowledges that "there is a vast storehouse of heavenly and practical wisdom at our disposal in the spiritual classics, ready for us to digest and allow to mould us after the pattern of Jesus Christ" (1). Good books on spirituality aim to make believers people of one Book.

Spiritual classics are those books recognized in large parts of the catholic, apostolic church to have exercised a significant influence in bringing Christians to mature holiness. The one hundred classics are nominated from various traditions and eras of church history that honor trinitarian spirituality. Toon introduces the reader to sources available in English, written before 1939 (the year of his own birth), ranging from the patristic age, from east and west and from churches of the Reformation and the third world.

Toon's eclectic approach inevitably generates questions about theological compatibility among his nominees. It is difficult to escape the impression that for Toon, Christian spirituality can and should transcend theology and theological differences.

Handy and by no means exhaustive, *Spiritual Companions* is not a reprint of these classics, but rather an identification of them. The value of this paperback lies in the author's alphabetical arrangement of writers and his two-page biographical introduction to the life and work of each.

Nelson D. Kloosterman

The Christian View of God and the World, by James Orr. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1989. Pp. 480. \$10.00.

James Orr was a nineteenth century Scottish theologian who was professor of apologetics and theology at the United Free Church College in Glasgow.

Besides authoring a number of books and lecturing on both sides of the Atlantic, he was also the editor-in-chief of the five volume *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*.

This book contains the Kerr Foundation Lectures, delivered in 1891 at the United Presbyterian Hall in Edinburgh and published in 1893. A

third edition of this extensive apology for Christian theism was published in 1897.

This reviewer first became aware of Orr's book some forty years ago at a Christian college where it was one of the assigned texts in a philosophy course. It was available then as a hard-backed reprint by the Eerdmans Publishing Company.

The present volume has now been published by Kregel and is virtually the same as the earlier Eerdmans model. The major difference is that it is now in paperback form and of course more expensive than it was with hardcovers forty years ago.

Orr was a moderate Calvinist. Alan P.F. Sell devotes a chapter to him in *Defending and Declaring the Faith: Some Scottish Examples* (Paternoster, 1987). While Orr did not believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, nor in an effective atonement for the elect only, he was however a firm advocate in the supernatural aspects of Christianity and he effectively presents the Christian world and life view in this volume from the presuppositional basis of the Bible as a divine revelation. Using an evidentialist apologetical position, he sought to establish the validity of the Christian faith by using, among other things, the theistic proofs. He was not, however, against the theory of evolution in theistic form; in fact, he says that "within certain limits, it seems to me extremely probable and supported by a large body of evidence" (99). Apparently, Orr did not allow the flat contradiction between this position and the opening chapters of Genesis to bother him.

At one time in his early Christian experience, this reviewer thought more highly of Orr's work than he does today. That the present publisher now seeks a market for it is perhaps an indication of how needful, and yet how presently lacking, good texts on Christian apologetics are.

Orr's book is not without value. It is an erudite presentation of the validity of biblical theism by a learned scholar of the past century. His book has extensive notes, invaluable appendices, together with important analyses of persons and movements over the centuries.

It can serve a useful place of reference on the theologian's study shelf. Perhaps the present price is reasonable by today's standards.

Raymond O. Zorn