

BOOK BRIEFS

Handbook of Preaching Resources from Literature, by James D. Robertson. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972. 268 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

This is a reprint in paperback edition of a book originally published by Macmillan (1972). Here are moral and spiritual excerpts from literary classics too numerous and voluminous to have always at hand. Says John Oman, of Cambridge, "Inspiration comes largely from keeping company with the inspired . . . (Among) all kinds of defects in our present system of theological education, the chief defect I take to be ignorance of literature." There are two comprehensive indexes: the first lists each reference alphabetically by subject and subheading; the second, by author and source.

The Invading Gospel, by Jack Celmo. Old Tappan (N.J.): Revell, n.d. 128 pgs. \$3.50.

This book, first published in England (1958), describes a distinguished British poet's journey "from isolated self-involvement to the joy of Christian fellowship." The writer felt an unresolvable conflict between Christianity and his own poetic temperament. After long struggle, he found the solution: man must surrender his unregenerate soul and accept the divine invasion. Only the Gospel of invading grace, with all its "transfiguring paradoxes," is adequate. The book is not for the casual reader. For it is a study in depth of a brilliant intellectual's pilgrimage from darkness to light.

A Time to Seek, Life and Faith Decisions of Youth, by Lee Fisher. Nashville and New York: Abingdon, 1972. 127 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

This inspirational book treats issues of life and faith which confront young people today. Topics discussed include identity, friendship, love, right and wrong, honesty, sin, suffering, conversion, and the hereafter. The author gives some clear directions to help youth understand themselves and the way of Christ. He served Billy Graham for twenty years as research assistant.

The Person of Christ, Volume II, by H. Brash Bonsall: London: Christian Literature Crusade, 1972. 256 pages. (paperback).

This book, by the principal of Birmingham Bible Institute, is the fruit of many years of teaching. The first volume presented the Christ of the Creeds. The present volume, concerned chiefly with the Jesus of History, is a scholarly answer to those who insist that the Gospel accounts are but “legends, myths, and fables about a hero, comparable to the divinities of other religions” (Preface); the chapters are prefaced by questions to help the reader get the most from his study. The book will meet the needs of a wide readership.

Pastoral Work, A Source Book for Ministers, by Andrew Watterson Blackwood. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1971. 252 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

Here is a precise yet wide-scoped book on the problems, small and great, which confront the pastor. Though thoroughly educated, Pastor Blackwood provides an home-spun weaving of insight and illustration that succeeds in catching the spirit of our time.

Many Witnesses, One Lord, by William Barclay, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 128 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

Diversity amidst unity characterizes the message of the New Testament. There is no one standardized religious experience; there is no one stereotyped interpretation of the Christian witness. The author seeks to discover what Christ and Christianity meant to the individuals who wrote the books of the New Testament—a challenging, difficult task indeed! Pursued by an eminent biblical scholar and preacher, the findings, as here related, proved rewarding reading. As in all his writings, the author’s freshness of insight and concreteness of style bespeak for this little book a wide reading.

Plain Talk on Ephesians, by Manford George Gutzke. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. 191 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

Other books by the author in the “Plain Talk” series deal with Matthew, John, Luke, and Acts. The present volume comprises a section-by-section interpretation of Ephesians. Mainly devotional, rich in con-

temporary allusion, and written in lay-language, these Bible-based expositions will be valuable for both sermon preparation and lay reading.

A Survey of Bible Prophecy, by R. Ludwigson. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. 187 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

Previously published as *Bible Prophecy Notes*, this book has been revised and up-dated, and added to Zondervan's *Contemporary Evangelical Perspectives* Series. It sets forth the different views on major prophetic themes such as the millennium, the tribulation, the restoration of Israel, and the second advent of our Lord. Bibliographies and maps are helpful.

Angels, Angels, Angels, by Landrum P. Leavell. Nashville: Broadman, 1973. 96 pages. \$1.95.

What does the Bible teach about angels? Their place in Bible Times? How are they organized? Are there angels today? The pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls answers questions such as these. A little book on a little-known subject!

Fractured Personalities, by Gary R. Collins. Carol Stream, Illinois: Creation House, 1972. 217 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

This is the third volume in the *Psychology for Church Leaders* Series. The first was *Man in Transition*; the second, *Effective Counseling*. The present volume treats the nature and causes of mental illness. It seeks to acquaint the church worker concerning abnormal behavior. Written by a competent psychologist from an evangelical perspective, the book is free of complicated jargon.

The Parables of Jesus, by George A. Buttrick. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 274 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

This paperback edition of the author's earlier publication will make the more accessible a work that is becoming something of a classic in parabolic study. Interpretation of the parables follows the findings of

competent critics of Scripture. The parables treated here become relevant to life in the twentieth century.

Issues of Theological Warfare: Evangelicals and Liberals, by Richard J. Coleman. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. 206 pages. \$3.45 (paperback).

Although the past decade has seen unmistakable evidence in the direction of theological ecumenicity, Protestant Christianity remains sharply divided. The author sees the battle lines drawn between liberals and evangelicals. Here he presents both sides of the big issues, making no effort to suggest compromises. His position is that both have something to teach; and both have something to learn. This is a book for those who welcome dialogue.

Evangelistic Sermons of Clovis G. Chappell. by Clovis G. Chappell. Nashville and New York: Abingdon, 1973. 144 pages. \$2.95.

Selections from the writings of one of America's outstanding preachers, these messages show the author's remarkable gift not only for getting to the heart of the gospel but for reaching the heart of "everyman." They center around the perennial question: Who is this Jesus and what response does He demand?

What Do You Think of Jesus, by David P. Scaer. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia, 1973. 114 pages. \$2.50 (paperback).

The author attempts to answer questions such as: Were the Gospel writers prejudiced? Did Jesus really live up to His name; Was He dead serious about Satan? What kind of Mosaic footsteps did Jesus follow? Theological and philosophical, the book is nevertheless eminently readable. It should enrich Christian commitment.

Modern Myths, by Cecil E. Sherman. Nashville: Broadman, 1973. 122 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

The writer would have us look squarely at some of today's myths—basic assumptions by which we live, but which do not stand the test of truth. He calls us to reexamine our lives in our relationships with others and to see how the gospel can change our habits of thinking and our way of life.

Life in the Heights, by J.H. Jowett. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 266 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

These brief expositions from the Epistles are sampling of Jowett's spiritual insight and remarkable beauty of style, a combination rarely found in sermonic literature. The winsome charm of this outstanding preacher of the grace of God reaches you movingly even through the printed page.

Dictionary of Satanism, by Wade Baskin. New York: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1972. 351 pages. \$12.50.

After looking through this extensive dictionary, one may conclude that the author's own words in the Preface best express the purpose of the book and the significance of its contents:

The tremendous current interest in occult phenomena is widespread and embraces all levels of society and sophistication. Popular novels, films, music, magazines, and newspapers, particularly those of the underground type, produce a constant stream of Satanic encounters, first-hand accounts of presumably inexplicable situations involving spirits, witchcraft, and other Satanic phenomena in their widest applications. Dark beliefs that have haunted men for millennia have sprung into new life. Everywhere there is a passionate eagerness to discover and test, to probe the outer fringes of knowledge, to draw new assurances from superstitions, esoteric cults, and Cabalistic teachings that lack scientific verification. From the gruesome murder of Sharon Tate to the pay-as-you-join Church of Satan administered by Anton Lavey, the omnipresence of the cult of Evil is undeniable.

The present work is intended to serve as a concise but comprehensive reference for the serious reader. It embraces concepts, issues, people, places, and events associated through the ages with Satan in his multifaceted but continuous manifestations. (pp. v, vi)

The perspective of this book is informational—to acquaint the reader with peoples, places, events, and ideas that relate to what the author calls "Satanism." This reviewer did not sense that the book was hortatory or aimed at propaganda in any way.

Dynamics of the Faith, ed. by Gene Miller, Max Gaulke and Donald Smith. Houston: Gulf Coast Bible College, 1972. 304 pages. \$4.95.

In an age of confusion and doubt, it is heartening to hear a positive affirmation of unchanging gospel verities—the more so when the voice comes from an institution of academic instruction.

Such is the hallmark of this anthology published by Gulf Coast Bible College. In compact chapters, it sets forth basic doctrines of the church and shows their application in evangelism. The editors, all of whom are leaders in the Church of God (Anderson), write from a perspective of evangelical realism. A devotion to the Holy Scripture shines through every page.

This fine Christian training school is to be commended for the study. It reflects a reverence in the presence of truth which distinguishes genuine higher learning. I believe that its publication will be received with gladness by all within the Church of God, regardless of their name.

Robert E. Coleman