

The PRESBYTERIAN *Journal*

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S.S. LESSON AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR AUGUST 28

SPURGEON ON GRACE

Grace is not a thing which I use; grace is something which uses me . . . Grace is not something which I improve, but which improves me, employs me, works on me; and let people talk as they will about universal grace, it is all nonsense, there is no such thing, nor can there be. They may talk correctly of universal blessings, because we see that the natural gifts of God are scattered everywhere, more or less, and men may receive or reject them. It is not so, however, with grace. Men cannot take the grace of God and employ it in turning themselves from darkness to light. The light does not come to the darkness and say, use me; but the light comes and drives the darkness away. Life does not come to the dead man and say, use me, and be restored to Life; but it comes with a power of its own and restores to life. The spiritual influence does not come to the dry bones and say, use this power and clothe yourself with flesh; but it comes and clothes them with flesh, and the work is done. Grace is a thing which comes and exercises an influence on us.

—Charles H. Spurgeon
SERMONS ON SOVEREIGNTY



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From Ben Hartley, editor of the *Survey*, for whom we hold high, personal esteem, comes one of the best arguments we have seen lately for the value of the independent church paper (such as the *Journal*). Wrote Mr. Hartley, in response to complaints that the *Survey* airs but "one side" of certain issues: "... many other issues resolved by our church cannot be opened to debate in the pages of the denomination's official publication. For example, our church's boards and agencies have policies and programs which *Survey* editors are committed to support." Right. And only the independent paper can debate the merits of these, analyzing trends and suggesting improvements.

A letter from the esteemed author of our Circle Bible Studies, Dr. Manfred Geo. Gutzke, tells us that his home recently was broken into by burglars evidently after money as nothing else was taken. Dr. Gutzke went on to say: "Perhaps I should feel flattered that they seemed to pay special attention to my office and my desks with the result that all my files and projects of work are strewn about in chaos. I must admit they certainly looked like confusion before, but I can testify they are chaos now. There is one sober truth which I would not particularly want the burglar to know and that is that my office certainly did need reorganizing; and he did, in a sense, some preliminary work along that line."

The Rev. Joseph S. Jones of Rt. 1, Morehead City, N. C., had an article in the *Journal* some time ago entitled "Communism — Ku Klux Klan — and the Presbyterian Church." Subsequently someone obtained permission to re-print it. Mr. Jones has lost the name and source of the re-print. If anyone knows, will he please contact Mr. Jones?

One person who's hard to find is the failure who admits he is a self-made man.—*The Dry Side*, Green Bay, Wis.

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THE CHRISTOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, by Oscar Cullmann. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 330 pp. \$6.50.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Cullmann has devoted a great deal of labor to his study of the New Testament Christology. His investigations in this field are characterized by thoroughness and precision.

Professor Cullmann describes Christology as the science whose object is the Person and work of Christ. The reader is reminded that the New Testament hardly ever speaks of the Person of Christ without at the same time speaking of His work.

All who are looking for a scholarly answer to the question, "Who was Jesus?" will find a vast amount of helpful material here. All twelve chapters lead to this conclusion: "We have seen that the first Christians achieved this perception in a threefold way: through the acceptance of the witness given in the life of Jesus with the events of Good Friday and Easter; through the powerful experience, both personal and in common worship, of the presence of the Kyrios, who is identical with the incarnate Jesus, as the 'Lord' of the Church, the world, and the life of each individual; through the reflection, carried out in faith in the present Lord and the crucified Son of Man, concerning the relation of this Jesus Christ to all the rest of God's revelation. These are the sources of early Christian Christological conviction. For the modern man there are no others. But all three in mutually clarifying interaction are indispensable for answering the question about Jesus."

—John R. Richardson, D.D.
Atlanta, Ga.

THIS IS MY GOD, by Herman Wouk. Doubleday & Co., New York. 349 pp. \$3.95.

Prior to the publication of this volume Herman Wouk, Pulitzer Prize novelist and playwright, had been engaged largely in the writing of fiction. This is a work of non-fiction and is marked by rare literary brilliance as

well as careful and thorough scholarship.

Partly a history of Jewish customs and religion, partly a statement of the author's own convictions, the book was for some 10 years in preparation before it went to press. It is intended for all who are interested in the historic Jewish faith, and therefore should have appeal to both Jews and Christians.

It is interesting to note that this renowned Jewish scholar has greater respect for conservative scholarship than many professing Christians of our day. He shows that those who try to discredit most of the old Testament and especially the books of Moses as chopped-up conglomerations of very late forgeries rather than authentic documents of antiquity do not base their views on sound scholarship.

The theory that imposed evolution on Old Testament religion, says Wouk, stood the Bible on its head and must be rejected. He observed that it is a hard thing for men who have taught these false ideas concerning the Old Testament for so long and given their lives to a theory to see these things fall apart. He recommends that serious scholars dismiss the documentary theory entirely and come back to the reliability of the historicity of the Old Testament. He observes that with our safest scholars the Torah is now taken as certainly Mosaic in origin and in content.

Seminary students who have become confused in their thinking by teachers who are weak in their faith will be encouraged by the reading of this work to reject the incompetent biblical scholarship that repudiates the historic veracity of the Old Testament. The purchase of this book by Christian ministers and seminarians will prove to be a profitable investment.

—John R. Richardson, D.D.
Atlanta, Ga.

CALVIN ON SCRIPTURE AND DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY, by John Murray. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids. 71 pp. \$1.75.

Here the able Professor of Systematic Theology in Westminster Seminary sets forth the teaching of Calvin on Holy Scripture and on Divine Sovereignty. Calvin frequently speaks of the Scriptures being dictated by the Divine Spirit, but his emphasis there-in is more on the result than on the

method. We are encouraged to hear the Word as the Voice of God speaking to His people, and to yield to His authority. For the Word of Scripture to be divinely vivified it must not be separated from Christ who is the soul of the law and the focal point of the whole of Holy Scripture. But this involves no incongruity between the finality that belongs to Christ as the incarnate Word and the finality of the Scripture as the Word of God written. For Christ is never brought into contact with us apart from Scripture. By the written Word and in His Spirit Christ encounters us.

Concerning election Calvin teaches that we were chosen in Christ, not in ourselves. Treating of the sovereign will of God, Murray holds that there is an equal ultimacy here as to reprobation and election; but admits there is a radical distinction between the two in that condemnation always presupposes guilt and ill-desert: "Reprobation must never be conceived of apart from the ground or basis which resides in us . . . the ground of condemnation is sin and sin alone. So reprobation always finds in men themselves a basis which never can be applied of election . . . the ground of damnation is sin and sin alone." Perhaps, the historic Methodist formulation is not as far from Calvin on the doctrine of Reprobation as it is of Election.

Murray is particularly able in setting forth the distinction between the secret and the revealed will of God. Every sin is against the revealed will of God but is in His decree. "It is this sovereignty of God's Providence even in the realm of sin that is the precondition of His sovereignty in redemption. Otherwise there would be a sphere beyond His control and thus beyond the reach of His saving grace.

—Wm. C. Robinson, Th.D.
Decatur, Ga.

BOOK BRIEFS

A GLIMPSE OF WORLD MISSIONS, by Clyde W. Taylor. Moody Colportage Library, Moody Press, Chicago. 128 pp. Paper, \$1.50. A survey, with maps, charts and diagrams, of the world situation in Missions, complete with tables of statistics, by the Executive Secretary of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association.

LUKE: THE GOSPEL OF THE SON OF MAN, by G. Coleman Luck. Moody Colportage Library, Moody Press, Chicago. 128 pp. Paper, \$3.95. A sort of running commentary on the text of the Gospel of Luke, preceded by a brief introduction containing statements of purpose, authorship and date.