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The PRESBYTERIAN Journal

VOL. XIX, NO. 13

JULY 27, 1960

\$3.00 A YEAR

S.S. Lesson and Youth Program for August 7

STRONG PREACHERS

"Strong preachers have ever been Bible preachers. The old reformers drew their weapons from the heavenly armory. The sermons of Bunyan, and Baxter, and Flavel, and men of their stamp, were full of God—instinct with living doctrines. Their very garb was after the Scripture pattern. Whitefield, as a custom, read the Bible with Henry's commentary, day by day, on his knees, praying over every sentence, line and word. Edwards and Davies were mighty in the Scriptures. Of Chalmers, it has been said, that his sermons 'Held the Bible in solution.' Preachers who saturate their sermons with the Word of God never wear out. The manna which they bring is pure, and sweet, and freshly gathered. It never cloy. God's Word is deep, and he who studies it will ever have something new. He will never be dull, for the words of the Bible are strong, living words, and its images and descriptions are very flowers of elegance. And citations clinch the passage of the preacher's discourse, and give sanction, dignity, positiveness, authority to it. And they shed light on his subject, like windows in houses."

—Fish

ACROSS the EDITOR'S DESK

This week we offer a remarkably fine treatment of the death of Christ and another of His resurrection. As you read the latter, you will be struck by the fact that "there are many false prophets gone out into the world." We continually pray that the Lord will grant enlightenment and revival in the midst of our years.

Footnote to the diminishing respect for the authority of the Bible: Archbishop Theoklitos, Primate of Greece, has announced that the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church will consider the alteration of New Testament passages that may offend Jewish sensibilities or serve to provoke anti-Semitism, at the Synod's October meeting. The Archbishop indicated that in this day of growing brotherhood, there is no longer a place for such critical passages offensive to Jews as are contained in the New Testament.

And in one of the larger, prominent churches of our own denomination, the printed calendar for the week read as follows:

Today (Sunday):

9:30 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
2:30 p.m. Softball practice;
Murray Hill
Playground.

We are even disturbed by the practice, first evident at Montreat this summer, of having a full schedule of conference workshops, discussion groups, etc., on Sunday afternoon. The day was once kept apart for worship and rest.

A church paper we heard about reports that nearly 60% of its readers have an education of more than four years of college. After surveying the readers of the **Journal** we must concede defeat. If this paper was read by every single minister in the US and the UPUSA churches, the total still would not be 60% of our readers.

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THE MIND OF ST. PAUL, by William Barclay. Harper & Bros., N. Y. 256 pp. \$3.50.

The chapters in this volume with the exception of the one on sin and one of the Church originally appeared as a series of weekly articles in the pages of the *British Weekly*. They deal with the Theology of Paul. Dr. Barclay has gone direct to the Pauline letters to find out what Paul said and thought on certain great subjects.

The 18 chapters deal with great themes and the material is presented in an attractive style. For the most part we are able to follow the author's theological positions. Occasionally we dissent. On page 40 Dr. Barclay indicates that the death of Christ had no bearing on the attitude of God. This statement could be quite misleading because the death of Christ actually satisfied the justice of God, and enabled Him to consistently do what He could not have done otherwise. Presbyterians will also differ with the author on page 131 in his view of the mode of baptism.

Of special merit is the author's remarkable clarity and ability to make the great key words of the Bible come to life. Dr. Barclay has shown us that it is possible to take the main ideas of St. Paul and present them in simple down-to-earth language. All who desire to enter into the great thoughts of Paul will find the reading of this volume a delightful experience.

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

REVIVALS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, by C. E. Autrey. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids. 160 pp. \$2.95.

A generation ago everyone was saying, "Revivalism is on the wane." Today the tables have changed, and we are enjoying "a revival of revivalism". The need and urgency for revival is seen on all hands, to counteract the increasing ascendancy of materialistic philosophy, and the moral bankruptcy of the social order.

But God is at work in His world, and will continue to work as God's

people become concerned, yea, alarmed, about the spiritual condition of humanity.

One of the best ways to make preparation for revival is by a study of the outpouring of God's Spirit in the past. The Old Testament is filled with such spiritual awakenings, together with other illustrations of God's response to man's faithfulness.

Dr. C. E. Autrey, Professor of Evangelism in Southwestern (Baptist) Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and a considerable evangelist in his own right, presents a series of eight prayerful studies in the Revivals of the Old Testament. They are, The Revival at Sinai, Under Samuel, On Mount Carmel, At Nineveh, Under Asa, Led by Hezekiah, Under Josiah, and the Post-Captivity Revival.

Showing the necessity for any movement to stay close to the teachings of the infallibly inspired Word, Dr. Autrey says, "Vigorous Presbyterianism was killed in England during the eighteenth century by infiltration of Unitarianism. In less than fifty years of Unitarian penetration, the doctrines of the great founders of Presbyterianism had been throttled and were heard no more. With the doctrine went the church. What a people believe, makes them."

American Presbyterians would do well to hear and heed! Our need in the mid-twentieth century is not so much to advance to the point of compromise with current culture, but rather to return to a renewed adherence to essential Biblical truth, "the faith once delivered unto the saints".

In these days there is much "strange fire" that goes by the name of "evangelism". This book provides a most wholesome antidote to many of the peculiar notions that are being produced in high denominational (and interdenominational) circles by "The Young Turks of Evangelism".

—(Rev.) John H. Knight
Smyrna, Georgia

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS, Vol. I. by John Murray. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids. 408 pp. \$5.00.

We congratulate Eerdmans and Dr. N. B. Stonehouse on this notable beginning in the **NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY ON THE NEW TESTAMENT**. With such other commentators as Leon Morris, F. F. Bruce, E. K. Simpson and Alexander

Ross this is to be a scholarly series and a great help to Bible-believing students. The series uses the ASV or 1901 version of the Bible. Dr. Murray is Professor of Systematic Theology in Westminster and already favorably known for his vigorous exposition of the classic Reformed Faith.

According to this volume the Epistle to the Romans was written from Corinth perhaps in the spring of 55 A.D. It was written to a Church in which the Jewish was a most important, but not the major segment. The Gospel is defined as from God, being prophesied in the OT, concerning His eternal Son who is presented in two successive stages. He was made of the seed of David according to the flesh but invested in a powerful manner as Son of God and Lord at His resurrection. This Gospel brings God's righteousness to everyone who believes. There is a great emphasis on faith in the instrumental cause, but this faith is a self-abnegating, a self-renouncing attitude. It takes no glory to faith itself; it gives all glory to the God of grace for His redeeming work in Christ and rests in His power and faithfulness. God accomplished this redemption by setting forth Christ as a propitiatory offering to vindicate His righteousness in suspending the punishment of the OT sinner and in forgiving the NT believer.

Reconciliation is God's act dealing primarily with His own holy enmity against us. "It is viewed as something accomplished once for all in the death of the Son of God," and is received by man as a gift from God. The love of God shed abroad in our hearts is not our love for God but His for us, not (with Rome) the love we exercise, but the love we trust. God commends His own love towards us in that Christ died for us; and His love is God's love for Christ, God over all blessed forever.

The volume is marked by thorough scholarship, though we miss references to Dr. Otto Michael's *Der Brief an die Römer*.

—William C. Robinson, Th.D.
Decatur, Ga.

A HISTORY OF ISRAEL, by John Bright. Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 500 pp. \$7.50.

For some years a thorough history of Israel has been needed. Sensing this fact, Dr. Bright proceeded to write