

BOOK NOTICES

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Inclusion in this section does not preclude subsequent review of a book.

Allen, Leslie C. *Ezekiel 20-48*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 29. Dallas: Word Books, 1990. xxviii + 301 pp. \$24.99.

This commentary completes the treatment of Ezekiel begun by the late W. H. Brownlee. Besides performing the usual function of a commentator, Allen also scrutinizes Ezekiel's priestly training, as evidenced in the book's precise, structured, and chronological format.

Balswick, Jack O., and Morland, J. Kenneth. *Social Problems: A Christian Understanding and Response*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1990. 357 pp. Paperback, \$22.95.

Informed by biblical insights and social science, the authors analyze eleven social problems in America. Each chapter explores the evidence and nature of a problem, its dimensions, available explanations for it, and programs for treating and preventing it.

Betsworth, Roger G. *Social Ethics: An Examination of American Moral Traditions*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. 213 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

Betsworth introduces social ethics by focusing on the cultural narratives that shape American images of self and the world: the biblical stories, the American gospel of success, the idea of well-

being, and the global mission of America. Two narratives from "outsiders" (blacks and women) are included to provide correctives to self-deception in the four dominant motifs.

Brown, Colin. *Christianity and Western Thought: A History of Philosophers, Ideas and Movements*. Vol. 1, *From the Ancient World to the Age of Enlightenment*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990. 447 pp. \$21.95.

Brown presents an informed survey of Western thought from a Christian perspective. One aim of the work is to enable its readers to get a better grasp of the "love-hate relationship between philosophy and faith" that has gone on for nearly 2,000 years.

Dauids, Peter H. *The First Epistle of Peter*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1990. xxii + 266 pp. \$24.95.

According to Dauids, 1 Peter constitutes a coherent and significant work of NT theology and pastoral care. It serves as an example of how the early church applied Jesus' sayings and the OT writings to contemporary concerns (and thus functions also as a model for modern usage of those materials) and presents some extremely useful perspectives on living the Christian life.

Faivre, Alexandre. *The Emergence of the Laity in the Early Church*. Translated by David Smith. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1990. 242 pp. Paperback, \$11.95.

Faivre traces the history of the laity during the first five centuries of Christianity. He demonstrates that the laity did not appear as a separate class in the church until the middle of the third century. Prior to that time, all Christians were considered *klēros*, a "people set apart." The author holds that his findings are especially relevant to the vitality and mission of the present-day church.

Farmer, Kathleen A. *Who Knows What Is Good? A Commentary on the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1991. xii + 220 pp. Paperback, \$15.95.

Unlike most other commentaries, the International Theological Commentary series has a primary aim of providing theological interpretations of the Old Testament that are applicable to the international Christian community rather than merely to those who live in the West. Farmer's work focuses on what is "good" for humankind and how they should live their lives on earth, as set forth in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Grant, Robert M. *Jesus after the Gospels: The Christ of the Second Century*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. 134 pp. \$14.95.

This book is the published version of the Hale Memorial Lectures delivered at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in 1989. The focus of the lectures is on early attempts to synthesize diverse strands in the Gospel portraits of Jesus.

Oden, Thomas C. *After Modernity . . . What?: Agenda for Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academic Books, Zondervan Publishing House, 1990. 224 pp. \$14.95.

This volume is a thorough revision of *Agenda for Theology: Recovering Christian Roots* (1979). As in the previous work, Oden decries the bankruptcy of modern liberalism and calls for a return to classical forms and symbols.

Pinnock, Clark H., and Brown, Delwin. *Theological Crossfire: An Evangelical-Liberal Dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990. 261 pp. Paperback, \$10.95.

Theological Crossfire is a plea for constructive liberal-conservative dialogue. It demonstrates what such an exchange can be like. The book is based on several assumptions, including one that holds that both conservatives and liberals have a great deal to learn from each other.