

Table of Contents

Passing Through – Books at a Glance	4
Passing Through – Cross Focused Reviews	5
Reviewer: Chris Land	5
Rating: 5 Stars	5
Reviewer: Stuart Brogden.....	5
Rating: 5 Stars	5
Reviewer: Ben Franks	5
Rating: 5 Stars	5
Reviewer: Allen Mickle	5
Rating: 5 Stars	5
Reviewer: Anne Pendleton	5
Rating: 5 Stars	5
Reviewer: Joey Parker	6
Rating: 5 Stars	6
Reviewer: Chris Ho.....	6
Rating: 5 Stars	6
Reviewer: Jaime Beyersdorf.....	6
Rating: 5 Stars	6
Pentecostal Outpourings – Cross Focused Reviews	6
Piety’s Wisdom – Peace and Truth	7
Preaching in the Holy Spirit – The Banner of Truth.....	7
Portraits of Faith – Cross Focused Reviews	8
Preaching in the Holy Spirit – Modern Reformation	9
Prepared by Grace for Grace – Cross Focused Reviews	9
Reviewer: Brian Cosby (waysidechurch.org).....	9
Reviewer: Alex Houston (reformed---at---last.blogspot.com)	9
Reviewer: Dave Jenkins (servantsofgrace.org)	10
Reviewer: Elliot Kang (elliottkang.wordpress.com)	10
Reviewer: LaTawnia Klintz (latawniakreviews.blogspot.com).....	10
Reviewer: Chris Land (keepingthemainthing.blogspot.com)	10
Rating: 5 Stars	10
Presbyterian and Reformed Churches: A Global History – New Horizons OPC	10
A Puritan Theology – Baker Book House	10
Puritan Reformed Spirituality – The Banner of Truth.....	11
The Quest for Historical Adam – Hans Madueme, Themelios.....	11
The Quest for the Historical Adam: Genesis, Hermeneutics, and Human Origins - Paul Wells, Banner of Truth Reviews	11
Quest for Historical Adam – Paul Wells, Evangelical Times.....	12

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible -- Covenanter Witness.....	13
Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible – Free Church Witness	14
Reformation Heritage Study Bible-- Peace and Truth Journal.....	14
Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible – Protestant Reformed Theological Journal.....	15
Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible - Edge-Lined Goatskin - Bible Buyers Guide Review	16
Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1 – Reformed Presbyterian Witness.....	16
Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries --Protestant Reformed Theological Journal.....	17
Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries – Sixteenth Century Journal.....	17
Reformed Thought -Evangelical Times	18
The Reformer of Basel – Banner of Truth.....	19
Riots, Revolutions and the Scottish Covenanters – Iain Campbell, The Review	20
Saved by Grace – New Horizon OPC	21
Sing a New Song – Free Church Witness.....	22
Songs of a Suffering King - McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry	22
The Soul of Life – Reformed Presbyterian Witness.....	25
The Sound-Hearted Christian – Banner of Truth.....	25
Spiritual Warfare – Challies.com	25
Spiritual Warfare -- Covenanter Witness.....	26
(David McKay).....	26
The Theology of the French Reformed Churches – New Horizons	27
Thoughts on Preaching and Pastoral Ministry – Books at a Glance.....	28
To Win Our Neighbors – New Horizon	28
Trading and Thriving in Godliness – The Free Presbyterian Magazine	29
A Treatise on True Theology – Mid-America Journal of Theology, Ryan M. McGraw	29
A Treatise on True Theology, with the Life of Franciscus Junius – Reformed Theological Journal.....	30
A Treatise on True Theology, with the Life of Franciscus Junius – Westminster Theological Journal.....	31
What is Experiential Calvinism? – British Church Newspaper	32
What is Experiential Calvinism? – Cumberland Valley Blog.....	32
Where Wisdom is Found – Banner of Truth	32

Why Christ Came – Cross Focused Reviews.....	33
Reviewer: Michael Boling (IntelMin.org)	33
Reviewer: Jared Bumpers (jaredbumpers.wordpress.com)	33
Rating: 5 Stars	33
Reviewer: Becky Norton (lookingaheadtobetterdays.blogspot.com)	33
Reviewer: Ryan Rickard (declinationblog.wordpress.com).....	33
Rating: 5 Stars	33
Works of William Perkins, Volume 1 -- Dr. S. Westcott.....	33

Passing Through – Books at a Glance

Review by J. Stephen Yuille

The term “walk” is found throughout Scripture. As a matter of fact, it’s one of the most common biblical metaphors for the Christian life. It’s somewhat difficult for us to appreciate this, because we live in a world of cars, buses, trains, and planes. For most of us, walking is nothing more than a leisure activity. But that isn’t the way it was in Bible times. Back then, walking was the principal mode of transportation. It was, therefore, the perfect metaphor for understanding the spiritual life.

As Christians, we’re walking (i.e., journeying) through this world. We’re to do so worthily, watchfully, and wisely (Eph. 4:1; 5:15), because “the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). Christ says we aren’t “of the world” even as He wasn’t “of the world” (Jn. 17:16), yet we’re sent “into the world” even as He was sent “into the world” (Jn. 17:18). “On the one hand,” writes John Stott, “the church is a holy people, called out of the world to belong to God. But on the other hand it is a worldly people, in the sense of being sent back into the world to witness and to serve.”

At times, it’s extremely difficult to be *in* the world yet not *of* the world. In *Passing Through*, Jeremy Walker provides some much needed insight into how to maintain the balance. His pastoral counsel consists of ten biblical principles:

1. Understand the environment
2. Know the enemy
3. Fight the battles
4. Pursue the mission
5. Respect the authorities
6. Relieve the suffering
7. Appreciate the beauty
8. Anticipate the destiny
9. Cultivate the identity
10. Serve the king

Walker’s methodology is straightforward. Under each principle, he performs three tasks. First, he expounds a number of relevant passages of Scripture, in order to establish a biblical framework for thinking. Second, he summarizes the principal thoughts that emerge from the biblical framework. Third, he shapes these

principal thoughts into specific points of application.

There's a fair amount of repetition between tasks #1 and #2. This accounts, in part, for the book's hefty 265 pages. Personally, I was looking for greater emphasis on task #3 (the specific points of application). That said, I highly recommend *Passing Through* as a valuable resource for those seeking to glorify God in their daily walk.

It's biblically-saturated. Walker literally immerses the reader in Scripture. "With the Word of God as our map and the Spirit of Christ as our compass," says he, "we are equipped to navigate this world, to make our way so as to bring honor and glory to God" (p. 18).

It's theologically-grounded. Walker is a reliable and capable theologian, as evidenced in his previous writings. He addresses a number of difficult concepts and motifs in this book, and handles them skillfully. In addition, his exegesis is very good.

It's pastorally-motivated. Walker writes as a shepherd to his sheep. As a matter of fact, my guess is that most (if not all) of the chapters in this book were originally delivered as sermons. Because he desires to see God glorified in His people, Walker is earnest in his call for "holy separation" and "holy engagement" (p. 33). A timely call indeed.

Passing Through – Cross Focused Reviews

"For Christians living in the 21st century, this is a book that all believers in Christ must read. As we see ourselves as the moral minority, this book will not only equip its readers, but also encourage them"

Reviewer: Chris Land

Rating: 5 Stars

"This is wonderful book to help us figure our identity in Christ and to live accordingly."

Reviewer: Stuart Brogden

Rating: 5 Stars

"I encourage everyone to pick up this helpful volume as a useful tool on this pilgrim road we trod."

Reviewer: Ben Franks

Rating: 5 Stars

"This book is such a breath of fresh air for the Christian that I cannot recommend it heartily enough."

Reviewer: Allen Mickle

Rating: 5 Stars

"I encourage you to read this book slowly in order to digest what the author is saying."

Reviewer: Anne Pendleton

Rating: 5 Stars

"Passing Through is a wake up call to reorient our vision to Christ and His Kingdom and to serve Him as we relate to this world."

Reviewer: Joey Parker

Rating: 5 Stars

“I’m thankful for this book and hope Christians will pick it up and read it.”

Reviewer: Chris Ho

Rating: 5 Stars

“This is a book every Christian should read.”

Reviewer: Jaime Beyersdorf

Rating: 5 Stars

“This is a good and helpful book.”

Reviewer: Alan Davey

Rating: 5 Stars

Pentecostal Outpourings – Cross Focused Reviews

“What makes this book even more interesting is the multiple flavours of Reformed views that bring out the beauty, the unique perspectives, and the many different ways the Holy Spirit works.”

Reviewer: Conrade Yap

Rating: 5 Stars

“*[Pentecostal Outpourings]* is packed with detailed and well-researched information, covering revivals in both the British Isles and America.”

Reviewer: H. Marshall

Rating: 5 Stars

“Church history is a very important subject to read and study with fellow Christians. This book gives you a good detailed history of different perspectives on revival as it relates to the reformed community.”

Reviewer: Chris Land

Rating: 5 Stars

“I found this book to be balanced because it focused on the truly Christ centered revivals. It discussed the time period and happenings that may have influenced these movements and even cautioned false revivals... a great book to help fill in those gaps of what I had previously learned.”

Reviewer: Angela Parsley

Rating: 5 Stars

“This book details exciting historical accounts of revivals. All you have to do is to look at today’s headlines to see

that our nation desperately needs revival. But what is biblical revival? Is it a planned, man-centered event, such as “Revival – Saturday Night”? No, as one of the editors and contributors of this volume, Robert Smart writes, the intent of the book is to “Promote the knowledge of God, the gospel of Christ, and the great outpourings of the Spirit through a variety of Reformed authors reflecting and applying historical and biblical lessons for today’s Christian leader.”

Reviewer: Bill Pence

Rating: 5 Stars

Piety’s Wisdom – Peace and Truth

This Summary of Calvin’s *Institutes* with Study Questions is unlike Ford Lewis Battles’s Analysis of the Institutes in that whereas Battles simply states what Calvin says in concise form, Beach offers us a series of essays on each major topic of Calvin’s work. The result is a pleasure to read. The quotations from Calvin are brief, to the point and well incorporated into the flow of the author’s exposition. With both Battles and Beach in our hands, it is possible to get a firm grip of a work with which so many Reformed readers are unfamiliar. With questions for reflection and discussion closing each chapter, the book is very suited to a church study group, conducted by a qualified leader.

Preaching in the Holy Spirit – The Banner of Truth (Jeremy Wallker)

If you have heard Al Martin preach at least twice, then – even without knowing the author beforehand – you would be able to identify him after reading the first paragraph of this book, not to mention the rest of it. The material – the substance of two sermons to pastors – addresses the agency and operations of the Holy Spirit, his indispensable necessity, his specific manifestations, and the restrained or diminished measure of his operations, all focusing on the act of preaching. The author brings the fruit of his study, observations and experience to bear on this topic, giving the reader an appetite for the reality he sketches. It is stirring and necessary stuff, and a powerful corrective to dry, dull, predictable sermonizing.

Preaching should read this!

Portraits of Faith – Cross Focused Reviews

“These four short portraits were a great encouragement to me. This book is definitely one that could be read in a week with a chapter a day as a short devotion on faith. It will surely bless all who read it.”

Reviewer: Joey Parker

Rating: 5 Stars

“Anyone who wants to understand faith and how it is exercised in the life of a believer should read this book.”

Reviewer: Cliff VanNostrand

Rating: 5 Stars

“Portraits of Faith is a call for Christians to reflect. Joel Beeke paints a biblical picture for Christians of what it means and how it looks to live a life of faith. May we reflect that portrait.”

Reviewer: Theron St. John

Rating: 4 Stars

“I found this book to be of great value to me spiritually. It was an encouraging reminder to see the examples of faith in the lives of those saints with whom I can so easily identify.”

Reviewer: Zack Ford

Rating: 5 Stars

“Those familiar with Joel Beeke will at once recognize his pastoral love and grandfatherly affection for the church in this book. Those who are not yet familiar with him will be encouraged by his care for sinners. *Portraits of Faith* will encourage you in your walk and will point you to Christ to strengthen your faith.”

Reviewer: Aaron Cerda

Rating: 5 Stars

“The material is biblically sound, the discussion questions provided at the end will give some more food for thought and aspects to study, and for that reason, I suggest if you want to grow in faith, pick up a copy of this book. It will be very helpful in your studies on faith and more importantly, it will serve as a seed that when planted, will cause your faith in God and your relationship with to blossom and grow to a place of maturity.”

Reviewer: Michael Boling

Rating: 5 Stars

“...approachable for all readers. It is a helpful book as one examines their faith and how it affects their life.”

Reviewer: Jonathan Roberts

Rating: 4 Stars

“The Shunammite woman is the one I identify with most in Portraits of Faith. Her simple faith in the midst of great affliction resonates greatly with me.”

Reviewer: Cheryl Stansberry

Rating: 5 Stars

“Each of these little vignettes will be a good resource for pastoral ministry and for personal maturity in the faith. If you have ever failed in your faith, if you have ever suffered in your faith, if you have ever felt rejected in your faith, if you have ever felt in the minority in your faith – read this book! You will be blessed.”

Reviewer: Todd Wilson

Rating: 5 Stars

“We need to interpret the biblical narratives from the eyes of faith. This is what Beeke has demonstrated in his refreshing look at the five characters.”

Reviewer: Conrade Yap

Rating: 4 Stars

“Faith is often a grey, murky word in Christian circles, but Beeke has sought to define it through people, and has succeeded. This is a small, but packed book. I definitely recommend it.”

Reviewer: Zach Barnhart

Rating: 4 Stars

“This book was easy to read yet will fill your spirit with insight and understanding.”

Reviewer: Sherry Legan

Rating: 5 Stars

“*Portraits of Faith* would work well as a study with relatively new believers. This would also be an easy, refreshing devotional read for a more seasoned believer. As Beeke points out, his purpose is not to focus solely on faith, but to use the characteristics of faith to point us to the Savior. In that he succeeds, and thus I recommend this book.”

Reviewer: Ann Pendleton

Rating: 4 Stars

Preaching in the Holy Spirit – Modern Reformation (Ryan McGraw)

The book comprises four chapters with a short conclusion. Because Martin is concerned with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the preacher in the act of preaching, chapter 1 limits the parameters of the subject. This means that the book does not address related topics, such as the work of the Spirit in the pastor's study or upon the congregation during the preaching of the Word.

Chapter 2 sets forth why the dynamic operation of the Holy Spirit is necessary in the act of preaching, and chapter 3 makes this assertion concrete by describing what this looks like in practice. It is important to note that most of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit's work in preaching reflect the subjective experience of the preacher as much as the objective truths of Scripture. Martin is driving at two things here.

First, preaching is an act of experimental piety on the part of the preacher, with dependence upon and in communion with the Spirit. Second, while the work of the Spirit is indispensable for true preaching, the Spirit is a sovereign person who acts when, where, and how he pleases. Since, we cannot take his presence or work for granted, this places a premium on prayer. Chapter 4 addresses way in which preachers can diminish the blessings of the Spirit, and Martin gives careful attention to what it means to 'grieve' or to 'quench' the Spirit.

The subject matter in this book is of great relevance for our time. Ministers should keep this book their desks and consult it regularly, and church members should read it so they know how to unite with their minister in prayer for his pulpit ministry.

Prepared by Grace for Grace – Cross Focused Reviews

"I found this book particularly helpful in clarifying how God works in a person's life to prepare him or her for conversion. In particular, I have come to a newfound appreciation for preaching God's law and have come to see more clearly why the Puritans so stressed the law of God—they wanted sinners to be saved... *Prepared by Grace, For Grace* is an extremely helpful guide to this often confusing issue. I'm heartedly commend this timely and practical gift to the church!"

Reviewer: Brian Cosby (waysidechurch.org)

"This book is not a dry, boring systematic theology, but really is a book about grace, the incredible grace showered on lost sinners by a loving God. Highly recommended!"

Reviewer: Alex Houston (reformed--at--last.blogspot.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

“*Prepared by Grace, for Grace* is biblically grounded, pastoral, and seeks to apply its teaching, all to help us understand what the Reformers and Puritans taught about preparation. While this book would help the average laymen, I believe this book is especially helpful for Pastors who need to understand the importance of preaching the law and gospel to their congregations”

Reviewer: Dave Jenkins (servantsofgrace.org)

Rating: 5 Stars

“Beeke and Smalley do an excellent job in what they aim to do. They explain the Puritans’ positions on preparatory grace, and they refute the false claims of modern scholars who misinterpret the Puritans’ thoughts... The authors are academic in pursuit of biblical truth, and I commend them for that. *Prepared by Grace, for Grace* is a fine result of their hard work.”

Reviewer: Elliot Kang (elliottkang.wordpress.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

“I encourage all who want a better understanding of how the Puritans thought and believed about God’s grace for the sinners, to get a copy of this book and start reading.”

Reviewer: LaTawnia Klintz (latawniakreviews.blogspot.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

“With the resurgence of Reformed Theology that has been spreading for the past few years, it is good to read up on the puritans and what they taught from the Bible. This book is an excellent collection of theology from the puritans on such a controversial topic that should encourage us not only in evangelism but in the preaching of the Bible.”

Reviewer: Chris Land (keepingthething.blogspot.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

Presbyterian and Reformed Churches: A Global History – New Horizons OPC

Professor James McGoldrick, of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has served our Presbyterian and Reformed community well in the production of this volume. *Presbyterian and Reformed Churches* provides a helpful tool for anyone interested in, or involved with, the ecumenical calling of the church. It is a work on church history, to be sure, but the breadth of the survey, and the historical details recounted, provide the ecumenist (mindful of the prayer of our Lord Jesus, “that they may all be one”) with a sweeping handbook of Reformed Christianity.

A Puritan Theology – Baker Book House

A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life offers a groundbreaking treatment of the Puritans’ teaching on most major Reformed doctrines, particularly those doctrines in which the Puritans made significant contributions. Since the late 1950s, nearly 150 Puritan authors and 700 Puritan titles have been reprinted and catalogued by Joel Beeke and Randall Pederson in their 2006 collection of mini-biographies and book reviews, titled, *Meet the Puritans*. However, no work until now has gathered together the threads of their teaching into a unified tapestry of systematic theology.

Puritan Reformed Spirituality – The Banner of Truth (Jonathan Master)

For those interested in the spirituality of the great Reformed men of old, this is essential reading...The book would be worth buying for the historical material alone – Beeke writes with an infectious love for the history and theology of the Reformation and post-Reformation tradition – but it is doubly valuable as an exercise in understanding the experimental Calvinism of which the Puritans were exemplars. One could quibble with details here and there, but to focus on these would be to miss the great value of the work.

The Quest for Historical Adam – Hans Madueme, Themelios

“VanDoodewaard should be commended for bringing an important new voice to the science-theology dialogue.”

The Quest for the Historical Adam: Genesis, Hermeneutics, and Human Origins - Paul Wells, Banner of Truth Reviews

William VanDoodewaard has written a fine book defending the literal interpretation of the first chapters of Genesis. It is well documented, balanced, reader-friendly, and the presentation of the main actors and issues is both irenic and objective. It is a book that should be widely read by evangelicals, whether they agree *a priori* with this position or not. It will heartily confirm those who already hold to the classic literal interpretation of the creation accounts, and maybe even serve to show those who think that it is old hat that the classic position is not necessarily for ostriches. Vandoodewaard may well convince some of those who are tempted by the latest publications on Adam and evolution that from a Christian perspective the difficulties of this position become insuperable at some points. Evolutionism as a hypothesis fits well with pantheistic monism or with dualism but it is a strange bedfellow for Christian theism.

VanDoodewaard asks the inevitable question as to where the frontiers of orthodoxy lie and, quoting Geerhardus Vos, he counsels caution: “Those committed to the literal tradition must realize that the views of proponents of alternative hermeneutical approaches on Genesis 1-2 only rise to the level of heresy, ‘when on principle they raise the so called results of science to grant precedence to them over the Word of God,’ encroaching

on human origins and history.” We may well wonder whether this is not the case when the historic Adam of Scripture disappears into a fog of mythology.

The great advantage of this book is that it provides the information necessary to do some stocktaking, to evaluate how we got here, where things are headed, and what the consequences are, or might be, for evangelicals who claim that Scripture is the inerrant or infallible word of God. On another level it raises the question of the responsibilities of theological institutes to the churches for whom they form candidates for the ministry.

Quest for Historical Adam – Paul Wells, Evangelical Times

This book defends the literal approach to the first chapters of Genesis, including the six days and the creation of the first human beings, and provides a readable history of the interpretation of the creation accounts, down to the present.

The author’s conviction is that the most natural reading of these sections of Scripture is to take them at face value, rather than resorting to gap, day-age, framework or poetic approaches.

More recently, things have gone even further in some ‘evangelical’ circles, particularly transatlantic ones, with certain scholars dabbling in theistic evolution or even treating the creation narratives and Adam as myth.

In spite of the complexity of the subject and certain of the ideas presented, this is not a difficult book to read, but clear and well documented. Seven chapters present the foundations in the biblical texts; the interpretation of these texts in patristic and medieval times; the Reformation; the Enlightenment; the nineteenth century; and the quest for Adam from the 1950s to the present.

Although all of it is interesting, the chase really hots up with the impact of the development of the natural sciences, and with the influence of Hutton, Lyell and Darwin and the idea of a pre-Adamic or co-Adamic humanity, or the idea that Adam was one of a tribe.

Until that point, interpretation of the creation accounts had, with a few eccentric exceptions, been taken literally, both in terms of the days, and of the special creation of Adam and Eve as the first humans, followed by an historic Fall.

This situation prevailed until about the mid-nineteenth century, when the pressure to harmonise with new ‘accepted wisdom’ became a reason to abandon the traditional view and seek new explanations.

VanDoodewaard examines how the Reformed reacted to these challenges, examining the likes of Warfield, Kuyper

and Bavinck; and how non-literal approaches were promoted in theological seminaries.

This detailed account shows that: ‘The Genesis 1 and 2 account of a special, direct creation of Adam and Eve as the first man and woman, without any ancestry, has seen very few exceptions in the history of Christianity. ‘Alternatives to that account include only one or two in the patristic and medieval eras, a scattered fringe during the post-Reformation and Enlightenment eras, and more in the post-Darwinian era of the last 150 years. In each case, the pressure to take up an alternative interpretation of human origins has come from sources external to Scripture and Christian theology’(p.277).

In a final chapter, the author faces the question as to whether new theistic evolutionary views modify what is essential to biblical faith. He indicates internal difficulties in these theories, but also the compromises required, with regard to the central doctrines of the grand biblical narrative of creation, Fall and redemption, and a biblical worldview rooted in these essentials.

The question I came away with is this: is it not inevitable that on the theistic evolutionistic road that, at some point, evolutionism will eat up theism and leave us simply with a humanistic naturalism?

This is a ‘must read’ for evangelical pastors and teachers, whatever their opinion about these issues may be, and for anyone interested in finding the historical Adam.

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible -- Covenanter Witness

There are many study Bibles on the market, each version now having several. This study Bible from Reformation Heritage Books seeks to offer extensive help to readers of the Authorized (King James) Version, with a focus on the application of the Word of God to all aspects of life. After introductions on ‘Reading the Bible Experientially’ and extolling the virtues of the AV, each biblical book is introduced and concise footnotes are provided to explain cultural, linguistic and theological matters, along with extensive ‘Thoughts for Personal/Family Worship’. There are also numerous in-text short articles on significant theological themes such as the names of God, the authority of Scripture and the person and work of Christ, which build into a kind of mini systematic theology. A number of other study helps are provided, including ‘How to Live as a Christian’, a survey of church history, and the text of all the main historic creeds and confessions of the Christian Church. The perspective is, as would be expected, conservative Reformed and the text of the AV is

taken as it stands, generally without comments on points where other conservative scholars would take a different view of the text or translation of the AV. Unusually in such publications, the names of the writers of the comments on each book are not given, only those of the editors. For readers of the AV this volume offers a considerable amount of valuable study material which will help to open up the riches of the Word of God.

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible – Free Church Witness (Rev. William Macleod)

Reformation Heritage Books and Dr. Joel Beeke the editor have done an excellent job an excellent job in gathering together a large group of conservative scholars, including our own Rev. Maurice Roberts, to produce this very valuable Study Bible.

The Authorised Version of the Scriptures is printed with useful explanatory footnotes which in a concise way help the reader over many difficulties and into a clearer understanding of the teaching of the Bible. At the end of each chapter there are thoughts and questions which are designed for use in personal or family worship. The notes and comments are designed to be experimental and encourage personal holiness. Useful introductions are given to each Bible book. Interspersed through the Bible there are articles on all kinds of theological topics: ‘God’s Foreknowledge’, ‘Christ’s Incarnation’, ‘Christ’s Coming Glory’, ‘Assurance of Salvation’, etc. At the end of the book the full texts of the great creeds and Reformed confessions are printed: The Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort, and the Westminster Confession and its Catechisms. Also included is a useful history of the Christian Church in the form of one large page for each century. There is a concordance and helpful series of sixteen maps.

Here we have a wonderful resource for which many have been eagerly waiting. These 2217+ pages provide food for the soul, help on the Christian road and sound teaching. Every home should have one.

Reformation Heritage Study Bible-- Peace and Truth Journal

This superb study Bible is superior to every other similar work known to this editor. All its contributors use the Authorized Version in their own preaching, and all are devoted to the Reformed Faith. Each book of Holy Scripture is introduced, summarized and shown its place in God’s unfolding history of redemption. Archaic terms are explained, key issues of interpretation are briefly handled, and practical counsel for heart and life are added.

Each chapter concludes with recommendations for private and family worship. The six literal day creation is taught, subjectivism and rationalism are denounced, and wild eschatological notions rejected. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is given the honored place He deserves, as the only Redeemer of God's elect and the culmination of divine revelation. A clear-cut Calvinism emerges as the only tenable theology of the Bible. The comments on each verse or group of verses are brief. The layout and print-size are probably the best suited to such a mammoth enterprise. Altogether, this is an excellent work.

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible – Protestant Reformed Theological Journal (Ronald L. Cammenga)

Reformation Heritage Books is to be commended for one of their most recent publications, *The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible*. This new study Bible promises to be the leading study Bible of English-speaking Reformed Christians who treasure the King James Version.

The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible holds the honor of being the first King James Version study Bible written from a distinctively Reformed perspective. Now at long last there is a KJV study Bible whose editors are committed Reformed theologians.

A good study Bible must do two things; *The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible* does both of them well.

First, a good study Bible must aid its readers in *understanding* the Word of God. It must help its readers to know the meaning of what they have read. What is the meaning of the text, the verse, and the chapter? What is its meaning in its immediate context, and what is its meaning in the context of the rest of the Bible? That is the purpose of a study Bible – to guide its readers into a proper understanding of what they have read.

But besides assisting its readers in understanding what they have read, a good study Bible ought also to assist its readers in *applying* the Word of God. Its purpose must be to indicate how a particular truth, how a certain doctrine, how this history or that event applies to Christians who are called to live for the Lord in the beginning of the twenty-first century. Not only the hearers (readers) of the Word, but the doers of the Word are blessed by God, according to James 1:22. A good study Bible ought to assist its readers in making the jump from the text to today. It ought to help in the movement from the Word in its first application to those to whom the Word was addressed to the Word as it applies to contemporary Christians facing the issues of our day. It ought to aid in bridging the gap

between the first disciples of Christ living in Palestine under the rule of the Roman Caesars at the beginning of the New Testament and Christ's disciples living in the modern era.

This ought to be the study Bible used in our homes, the study Bible used for our personal and family devotions. We have used it in our family devotions for the last several months, ever since it first became available. And my wife and I are both of the opinion that it is the best that we have yet seen.

I highly recommend the new *Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible*.

Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible - Edge-Lined Goatskin - Bible Buyers Guide Review

The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible in black goatskin is the nicest and highest quality study Bible that I've seen. I love the cover, paper, and print. The study material follows reformed theology, so it will not appeal to everyone (and as always I recommend you do your own study).

I love the format of the layout. All of the extra material within the text is placed at the bottom of the page and can easily be ignored if you just want to read the text. The text is kept clean and free of any distractions. The KJV Reformation Heritage Study Bible sets a standard in study Bible design and construction that I'd like to see others follow.

Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1 – Reformed Presbyterian Witness

Reformation Heritage Books has recently launched an academic division. Dennison's book *Reformed Confessions*, is the first to be published under this arm. This is volume one of four that will be released as they are completed.

James Dennison, professor of church history and biblical theology at Northwest Seminary, has undergone a huge task with this publication. The goal is to provide for the first time in English all of the Reformed confessional statements and catechisms of the Reformation era in a four-volume set. This set will show the unity and the biblical nature of the Reformed movements during the Reformation era.

Dennison writes, "If we may label the Protestant Reformation a mega-shift in human learning and belief, then these artifacts... are part of the ethos of that reformation. Here in English are the paradigms of that immense mega-shift." In other words this work is important because we see how Europe erupted and transformed into a God-honoring

society, and these statements document this shift for all of us to grapple with.

Reformed Confessions, volume 1 covers 33 confessions and catechisms from the years 1523-1552. Even though the book exceeds 800 pages, the reader will find that much of the reading is fresh and experiential as he or she is taken through 19 years of Reformed theology. The book proves to be exciting in that much of this material has never been seen in English until now. Fifteen of the 33 writings are first-time translations by Dennison and his collaborators.

One area that this book covers will, I believe, open a whole new interest in the Reformation among Spanish speaking believers. At least three Spanish creeds are included in this volume, and they express the need for further study in the area of Spanish speaking Reformed theology.

There are many other areas that will be of interest to various readers. Although this book is academic in nature, it contains so much practical religion that it would be my desire to see Christian families taking up these volumes for instruction in both practical Christianity and the historic nature of our beloved Reformed faith. It is a great joy of mine to recommend this volume and these 33 works by our Reformed forefathers.

Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries --Protestant Reformed Theological Journal

(Rev. Angus Stewart)

These four magnificent volumes, compiled and introduced by James Dennison Jr, contains 127 confessional documents in the 171 years from the Sixty- Seven Articles of Huldrych Zwingli (1523) to the Baptist Catechism (1693) – on average, one every sixteen months! Surpassing all previous compilations of Reformed confessions, this is now the definitive and by far the most complete, compilation in English of Reformed creeds from the foundational period of the Reformed churches. This attractively produced set is a treasure chest of confessional resources.

Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries – Sixteenth Century Journal

The prodigious labors of James Dennison and various translators have at last given us the much anticipated fourth and final volume of *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation*. This work presents in chronological order not only those major confessional documents long familiar to English readers, but other significant statements that until now have never been translated.

Moreover, this book represents the wide range of groups comprising the Reformed tradition, whose confessions denote their respective appropriations of the tradition within their unique national, political, cultural, and ecclesiastical contexts. A brief introduction to each document enables the reader to situate it within its unique historical circumstances.

Use of this work in study and research is greatly enhanced by copious footnotes throughout the documents as well as a detailed scripture index followed by an extensive subject index. Also at the end of each introduction there is helpful bibliographical information concerning the text that served as the basis of translation. These features together make this volume a useful tool for students and scholars alike.

Volume 4 of *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation* marks a superb conclusion to what is nothing less than a magisterial achievement on the part of Dr. Dennison and his collaborators. Not only this volume, but also the others in the series, merit a prominent place on the shelves of the reference libraries of all colleges, universities, and seminaries whose instruction includes the Reformation heritage of Protestant theology. This series will prove itself to be an invaluable treasure to historical and systematic theologians as well as students for generations to come.

Reformed Thought -Evangelical Times

Dr. William Young maintained a long, robust defense of Reformed thought. Paul Helm, writer of the book's Introduction, comments of Young's writings that, 'they reveal the depth of theological knowledge, and the acuteness of his judgment, and most of them indicate the strength of his adherence to the Reformed faith, in its purest and most uncompromising expression...'

Much of section one, 'Theology and doctrine', is directed to the pew rather than the academy and is with the scope of the average reader, serious about 'experimental religion'.

Section two contains 'Sermons and pastoral writings'. Chapter 12, 'Looking upon the pierced Christ', shows that Young's material originates from a pastor for whom the soul's communion with Christ is paramount.

This explains why the technical chapters never sink to abstract intellectualism. They reflect the outworking of Young's wise statement, 'don't ask me how little a person might need to believe in order to be saved...But I will say this: a person who does have faith even "as a grain of mustard seed", wants to know more and more'.

The final two sections, 'Christian Philosophy' and 'Reviews', reveal that when the humble believer is an academic philosopher, the resources that he brings to his search for truth are enhanced. Young proceeds carefully and surely through complex issues, always respecting the authority of Scripture,

This is a timely book. It wipes away the secularist's sneer that Christians have renounced the use of reason for unthinking believing or emotionalism. Here is reason being used in its highest possible way, searching to better understand God's salvation and live to the glory of his name.

The Reformer of Basel – Banner of Truth (Arthur Fox)

What do Erasmus, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Melancthon, Thomas Muntzer, Philip of Hesse, and Michael Servetus all have in common? Each one of them was friendly to or influenced by Johannes Oecolampadius. And, just who was Oecolampadius? He was one of the earliest of the Reformers. He lived from 1482-1531, and served mainly in Basel. Some of his time was spent, like Luther, hiding from the Roman Church authorities in a monastery. He was the author of books and tracts that supported the work of reformation. His works on church discipline; preaching and even biblical theology anticipated later treatments by Bucer, Calvin and Vos. He entered the dispute between Zwingli and Luther over the doctrine of the Lord's Supper, and came close to resolving the differences between them. Yet he remains one of the least known of the great Reformers.

Dr. Diane Poythress is the wife of Westminster Seminary (Philadelphia) New Testament professor, Dr. Vern Poythress. Her book is a lucidly brief but full account containing much important information. Here is a brief overview of Oecolampadius' life, his relationship with his fellow Reformers (Calvin and Luther appear to have not only been influenced by his writings, it appears Calvin actually reproduced some of them in his own writings!), and his views on exegesis and hermeneutics, as well as a listing of his writings (a total of 167 works produced in a lifetime of just 49 years). In addition, the appendix contains the only known English translation of portions of the Basel Reformer's commentary on Isaiah 36-37. He wrote other commentaries on other Old and New Testament books.

It is to be hoped that scholars will pick up on this work and be led to produce English translations of Oecolampadius' commentaries and other writings. He was a genius whose work was ahead of its time.

Riots, Revolutions, and the Scottish Covenanters – Peace and Truth

This attractively-presented volume is a major scholarly assessment of the work of Alexander Henderson, one of the most significant leaders in the early phase of the Covenanter struggles in Scotland, bring the whole period under examination. The 17th century is one of the formative times in the history of the Reformed Churches, and the Scots Covenanters are among the most significant groups in that era. A book such as this one, combining scholarly rigour with theological insight, is therefore most welcome. It is deliberately scholarly, seeking to understand Henderson and his thought in his times. Henderson's role as a key maker of the Covenanter narrative is carefully laid out, and the role of both preaching and publishing in spreading this narrative and thus accomplishing the victory of the Covenanter party in the 1638 Glasgow General Assembly is explored in detail. This is a book about theology in action, and theologians in politics. The student of the 17th Century will find much to help in this work, and may we also suggest that those interested in the relations of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, both past and present, will also find it of interest. --G.N.C.

Riots, Revolutions and the Scottish Covenanters – Iain Campbell, The Review

Alexander Henderson is one of the towering figures of Scottish church history, but until now there has not been a good historical biography. As Dr. Jackson says, many of the older biographies ‘tend to be written by sympathetic Scottish Presbyterians who focused most pointedly on Henderson’s heroic character, how that character advanced the cause of the Scottish Covenanter movement in particular, and how Henderson advanced the greater cause of liberty in general’.

To be sure, Henderson’s life and work did all of these things; but maybe I think that because I am a sympathetic Scottish Presbyterian too. That aside, it is important to be reminded that historical writing can often use facts for a particular end, and it is good to be challenged in our understanding and educated afresh.

For these reasons and more, this is an excellent academic study of Henderson, careful to use the source material in context, and to show us how Henderson responded to the issues of his time. Set out in a simple order – the book examines the years of preparation, then Henderson as Covenanter, preacher, Presbyterian, pamphleteer and at the Westminster Assembly – it covers a fascinating period, during which the Scottish church underwent a second Reformation.

Some of the insights of Jackson’s biography are worthy of further reflection and study. One is the way in which the Covenanting cause of the seventeenth century was born out of, and shaped by, the covenant theology that

spread throughout Europe in the wake of the Reformation. Even Henderson's call to take up arms in the Covenanting cause was built on the covenantal arguments of Scripture, identifying Scotland as a covenanted nation just like Israel in the Bible.

Whether or not we are prepared to accept Henderson's argument, it is undoubtedly true that 'his distillation of covenant theology provided the dominant conceptual framework for the Scottish kirk and society'. One of the great lessons we can learn from his life is to end the widening gap between our covenant theology and our public theology.

Another area of interest is in the discussion of preaching. The centrality of preaching in worship was an emphasis which grew out of the Puritan struggle with Anglicanism. But what is interesting is the way Henderson tried to encourage better preaching. Presbyteries, for example, planned monthly theological topics for which the members had to prepare, preaching with strong rhetorical arguments and oratorical technique. The discussion of the style and substance of Henderson's preaching has much to teach us today.

A third area of interest is the role of the Scottish delegates to the Westminster Assembly. Henderson was one, along with Robert Douglas, Samuel Rutherford, Robert Baillie, and George Gillespie as fellow ministers. Henderson, aged sixty at the time, was the oldest.

Dr. Jackson shows how differences of emphasis and practice led to strong debates and controversy between the English Puritans and the Scottish delegates. That fact alone ought to keep us from assuming that the Assembly was an easy ride, always speaking with one voice.

This is an academic biography: well-resourced and critical. It may not be bedside reading for those who have little interest in church history. But it will be a pity if we do not read it, for the lessons of the past are applicable to the present, and the principles of Henderson's life and work are in constant need of being recovered and re-applied to our own lives, personally, denominationally and evangelistically.

Saved by Grace – New Horizon OPC

This is a very helpful treatment of the subject of regeneration and related matters. Bavinck is deeply aware of the history of the doctrine and interacts with a number of lesser-known but important Reformed luminaries from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Also, the editor's introduction is well written and helps the reader understand

Bavinck's work in its historical context. The editor's footnotes scattered throughout the work are also helpful. All in all, this work is a wonderful addition to the Bavinck corpus in English.

Sing a New Song – Free Church Witness (William Macleod)

Not all the authors who contribute to this symposium are convinced of exclusive psalmody. However they are all committed to serious worship and recovering a central place for the Psalms in worship. Sadly most churches have little if any place for the Psalms in public worship. People want user-friendly worship, with easily understood songs. The psalms are too deep, too intellectually and theologically challenging, for modern churches. Psalms are God-centered, while today's fellowships are man-centered.

The First section of this valuable book deals with psalm singing in history. The first chapter: 'From cassia to Cranmer: Singing the Psalms from Ancient Times until the dawning of the Reformation' is fascinating in demonstrating that the Psalms were the songbook of the early church. Joel Beeke shows that Calvin and the Puritans shared the same Psalm singing practice. Terry Johnson discovers that almost all churches till the onset of modern liberalism sang only the Psalms. David Murray deals helpfully with cursing Psalms (imprecatory Psalms) and shows how they too are to be sing to God's glory and our profit. Malcolm Watts gives a masterly treatment of 'The Case for Psalmody, with some Reference to the psalter's Sufficiency for Christian Worship'...Michael LeFebvre in his chapter 'The Hymns of Christ' writes something of which I had never thought before. I had often thought of Christ as our priest presenting our prayers to the Father. But LeFebvre goes further. He writes: 'For the New Testament disciples, who grew up singing the Psalms in expectation of a royal song leader who would one day personify and fulfill them, it must have been thrilling to meet Jesus...The church today often recognizes that the Psalms are about Jesus. But the New Testament enthusiasm for the Psalter goes beyond that...the New Testament authors want us to recognize Jesus, not simply as the one who fulfills things about himself in the psalms, but as the song leader who leads us in the singing of them'. LeFebvre quotes Romans 15:8-9, Hebrews 2:11-12 and Hebrews 10:5-7 to prove his point. Christ leads our singing as well as our prayers.

This is a valuable book which I would warmly recommend.

Songs of a Suffering King - McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry

John Fesko is academic dean and systematic professor at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. Having spent a decade in pastoral ministry, he has made a habit of publishing smaller devotional books. *Songs of a Suffering King* is actually his sixth book that is under 150 pages, and this book is a great example of his ability to offer theological insight without sounding pedantic. Fesko's goal is to edify Christians by providing easy-to-read yet biblically sound books. The author understands that many find it difficult to read an entire book in a single sitting. So Fesko has designed this book to be read "reflectively" over time. While the chapters build on one another, he provides ample repetition so that readers who have left the book for a period of time can easily pick up where they left off.

The focus of the book comes across throughout—"Scriptural psalms should be a regular staple in our personal spiritual diet" (ix). Fesko contends that the book of Psalms should be part of the church's preaching, teaching, singing, and prayer. He finds in the biblical poetry of the psalms, especially chs. 1–8, a resource for Christian living—the hope, confidence, and comfort we need in times of rejoicing and lament.

As the book itself claims to be a self-professed "devotional exploration" (9), the introductory section is expectedly short. However, Fesko recognizes that for many churches, "large portions of the Bible are a mystery because they never surface in preaching, liturgy, or worship" (122), and so he seeks to remedy such deficiency. The short introduction presents a useful teaching on how to approach the Psalms. Coming from a Reformed perspective, Fesko presents two hermeneutical principles for interpreting Psalms 1–8.

The first principle is that the "entire Psalter is connected to the person and work of Christ" (2). Though not all scholars hold this position, Fesko is keeping himself in line with the Reformed perspective of seeing Christ as the interpretive *telos* of Scripture as Luke 24:44 presents. He suggests the idea of seeing David as a character preview of Christ, that is, David as a prototype of the Messiah. Nevertheless, Fesko is not given to extremes of parallelism or decontextualized interpretations. While he boldly states, "we must identify all of the psalms as messianic—they all point us to Christ" (18), he also acknowledges that Christ does not explicitly appear in all the psalms (3). As an interpretive safeguard, he suggests a two-step process for appropriately reading the Psalms. First, an interpreter works towards "establishing the original historical context" and then he or she "can consider the connections to Christ" (9). However, even then, Fesko cautions that "the parallels are not precise—they usually are not" (40). This step process is a refreshing qualification to find in a devotional work. Too often, one reads of wild conjectures and baseless parallelomania in popular level books.

The second principle is that the Psalter has a “specific organizational structure” (4). This principle may be new to some readers, but Fesko is building upon the work of Gerald Wilson, *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*. Since Wilson’s dissertation was published in 1985, it has been a continued thesis discussed in Psalm studies. This should assure readers that, even though Fesko writes an easy-to-read book, it is built upon quality scholarship behind the scenes. Fesko makes use of the Psalter’s editorial structure to argue that the “first eight chapters set the tone for the rest of the first book of the Psalter” (108). Psalm 1 opens the psalter by presenting the righteous person, with Psalm 2 indicating that person as the enthroned Messiah. Psalm 8 points to the exaltation and praise of Christ by drawing upon Heb 2:6–9. Such an interpretation can be found in many places, but how then are Psalms 3–7 to be read? Fesko considers the overall structure of the psalter to be important in addressing this question. These intervening psalms are not to be disregarded. Instead, just as the anointed David suffered and was threatened by Saul and Absalom, so also the royal righteous man will endure suffering and death. This is cross-referenced with Matt 16:16–23.

The outline of the book follows the chronology of the eight psalms. Each chapter begins by refreshing the reader with some of the key points from the preceding chapters, followed by a short impression of the key theme of the new psalm. Fesko then explains the psalm regarding its historical situation in David’s life. While not a commentary, the book provides some historical insights into the situation of David’s life with reference to other scriptural passages. Attention is then given to how the psalm points to Christ and his work as the fulfillment of the text. In connecting the particular psalm with Christ, Fesko applies it to Christians as to what should be learned about Christ and how Christians should pray, live, and praise. He ends each chapter with further study questions and a metrical version of the psalm.

While some readers may want to go deeper than Fesko does in this book, it is nonetheless a solid book for its targeted audience. The book can be a useful introduction to orient people regarding the book of Psalms (including both the joy and lament sections) so as to make use of them as part of their Christian life, as it showcases simple ways to read the text, pray through the text, and be encouraged by its content.

The Soul of Life – Reformed Presbyterian Witness

If you've ever wanted to sample the writings of John Calvin but were daunted by the size of the Institutes and some of his other published works, this little volume is an excellent place to begin. The Soul of Life is one of the latest in the Profiles in reformed Spirituality series from Reformation Heritage Books. Each profile is a pocket-sized "reader," offering an assortment of shorter selections from the works of important (and some more obscure) historic Reformed writers on the subject of personal godliness.

Each bite size chunk of Calvin is brief, but deep and rich, and the reader is able to grasp something of his readable style and depth of insight without having to master on of the Reformer's longer treatises – though it is to be hoped that this taste will whet appetites to dig into these for more!

The Sound-Hearted Christian – Banner of Truth (Jeremy Walker)

This Puritan's parting shot hits home: his own strength fading, and conscious that he lived in times which tried men's souls, Greenhill was concerned that his people be truly sound---hearted. Taking Psalm 119:80 as his point of departure, here Greenhill explores the nature and excellence of a sound heart, gives some sterling counsel on how to get and keep such a heart, together with motives for the work, and also provides a devastating description of the unsound man. This is the kind of probing pastoral preaching that brings us to our knees, crying out to God to search us and know us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Alongside of this longer treatise are five short addresses on various topics: the command to believe, being of Christ's mind (some excellent things); acting in Christ's name (demanding); and, the preciousness and the sweetness of the Word of God (delightful). This pastor---preacher both wounds and binds up masterfully. His abiding concern for comprehensive holiness and genuine faithfulness are powerfully pressed home, to the profit of all who are willing to undergo the exercise of a humble reading.

Spiritual Warfare – Challies.com

Is there any category of book that goes more wrong more often than books on spiritual warfare? There can't be too many. Few subjects are more important to the life and well-being of the Christian, but I fear few topics receive worse treatment. Novel interpretations abound, as do outright unbiblical ones.

Into the fray step Brian Borgman and Rob Ventura with their new book *Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical and Balanced Perspective*. Borgman is pastor of Grace Community Church in Minden, NV while Ventura pastor's Grace Community Baptist Church of North Providence, RI, and together they attempt to strike a position that is both biblical and balanced. They succeed well, which is no easy feat. C.S. Lewis aptly caught the challenge when he said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

The second half of Ephesians 6 is the clearest biblical description of spiritual warfare as well as the most detailed description of the manner in which we are to fight this war. Here Paul describes a Roman soldier, looking at each part of the soldier's armor and weaponry, and drawing a parallel to the Christian life. *Spiritual Warfare* is, at heart, a detailed but reader-friendly examination of this text and the armor it describes.

Through the book's 128 pages, they move briskly from the belt of truth to the breastplate of righteousness to the shoes of the gospel and on from there. In each case they stay within the bounds of Scripture, never embellishing and never pursuing an original and unconventional interpretation. In an area where so many feel the desire for novelty, these authors look back more than forward—they look to God's Word and from there to the historical record of the church, often quoting Puritans or other godly authors from days gone by.

Spiritual Warfare is a steady, reasonable, balanced and biblical look at the reality that we are engaged in a life-long, age-long battle with dark spiritual forces. And it is a detailed examination of the means we have been given to wage this war. This is a subject that every Christian reader should attend to on a regular basis, and the reader will not do a whole lot better than this. I'm glad to recommend it.

Spiritual Warfare -- Covenanter Witness (David McKay)

There is much confusion among Christians on the subject of spiritual warfare, with plenty of books recommending practices which are totally foreign to Scripture or which misunderstand biblical texts. A straightforward, sane, biblical treatment of spiritual warfare is thus a welcome publication. Borgman and Ventura have written a clear and careful study of Paul's treatment of the subject in Ephesians 6. They rightly strike a

balance between the extremes of treating spiritual warfare as a trivial issue and reading everything about the Christian life through the lens of warfare with the powers of evil. After considering Paul's opening exhortations to 'be strong in the Lord' and 'put on the full armour of God', the authors examine each element of God's provision for his people, including a useful treatment of the relationship between prayer and gospel proclamation. Three helpful appendices round off the book, on the sovereignty of God in relation to Satan, on whether a Christian can be demon possessed and on the need for Christians to pray for their pastors. The chapters are short and readable, and a wide range of readers should profit from this helpful popular exposition of Paul's teaching on spiritual warfare.

The Theology of the French Reformed Churches – New Horizons

Even Francophiles like me often suppose that French Reformed pastors, past and present, have little if anything to offer to Reformed theological reflection. How refreshing it is to read a collection of essays that place French-speaking theologians in the historical spotlight.

In this eleventh volume of the series *Reformed Historical Theological Studies*, Martin I. Klauber has gathered together a variety of stimulating articles in an attempt to resurrect some of the vitality and richness of seventeenth-century French Reformed theology. "The period was an unusual one," notes Klauber, "in which France boasted two state religions, Roman Catholic and Protestant, due to the protections afforded the latter by the Edict of Nantes".

The historical background of this nearly century-long period is explored in the first part of the book, while the second part develops various, and even opposing, streams of Reformed theology and their theologians. The reader will find helpful appendixes providing excerpts of the Edict of Nantes (1598) and Edict of Fontainebleau (1685), revoking the freedom of Protestants in France, as well as a list of contributors, many of whom will be unknown to readers unfamiliar with French Reformed historical research. The selected biography of primary and secondary sources will permit the English reader to further his research. While the primary sources include many French titles that have not been translated into English, it would have been helpful to include the French bibliographical information of works already translated into English.

Anyone at all familiar with the seventeenth-century French Reformed Church will likely recall the theological controversies surrounding Amyraldianism and the persecution of the Huguenots. This collection of articles gives a fuller picture of the historical, theological, ecclesiastical, and even personal issues involved.

For instance, while the hypothetical universalism espoused by Moise Amyraut is often condemned as heretical, Richard Muller demonstrates that his views were controversial, and even vigorously opposed by his Reformed colleagues, but never condemned by the Reformed Church synod.

Amyraut also made significant contributions to the apologetics of faith and science, as well as Christian morality.

With respect to the Huguenot persecution, several articles add personal touches to the often-dry perception of the men of God who pastored churches during these years. On the one hand, many pastors like Andreas Rivetus had vivid memories of the bloody persecution and other dramatic events affecting the Huguenots, which 'profoundly colored his identify and personality' as he sought the unity and peace of the church. Other pastors, such as Pierre Jurieu, who fled the increasing persecution just before the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, wrote a much-read treatise on Christian devotion 'in the heart and closet – in places where the gaze of the king could not find it'.

Pastors and teachers would benefit richly from reading even a selection of these articles. The discovery of Reformed theology put into practice in an unfamiliar historical context may open up new perspectives on how to teach and live the Reformed faith today.

Thoughts on Preaching and Pastoral Ministry – Books at a Glance

Though today James Waddel Alexander is somewhat lesser known among the many ornaments that adorned Old Princeton, he was recognized in his own day as a model of that Old Princeton ideal of combined learning and piety. And thanks to Jim Garretson his story – long overdue – is being retold.

J.W. Alexander was the son of the famed Archibald Alexander, founding professor of Princeton Seminary, and brother of J.A. Alexander, also a professor at Princeton and also better known today. Yet J.W. Alexander's breadth of learning also is nearly staggering. But his passion was in ministering Christ. He taught such things as mathematics and the classics at the university level, but his heart kept returning him to pastoral ministry and the service of people on all levels of society – from the affluent to the slaves (which institution he abhorred). And in his relatively brief life of just fifty-five years of pastoring, writing, and teaching in both the university and the seminary, and through much suffering throughout, he left an impact for the gospel and a model of Christian zeal that will challenge and inspire pastors still today.

Garretson captures the life and labors of J.W. Alexander very well in his new book. Drawing primarily from Alexander's own private correspondence Garretson traces the major events, turning points, and the thinking that led Alexander through his varied career. I found his endless zeal for learning both challenging and inspiring, but even more so his faithful pursuit of ministry through endless struggles with health, bereavement, severe depression, as well as the stresses of ministry and work.

Christian biography is an invaluable “means of grace” to every Christian, and this book will doubtless prove especially effective for pastors who take the time to read. Garretson's new book is a wonderful accomplishment just for its historical value – this is a lacuna that needed filling, and he leaves all lovers of Old Princeton in his debt. But its chief value, I think, lies in the inspiring model it provides for pastors still today.

To Win Our Neighbors – New Horizon

To Win Our Neighbors to Christ is a compact, but compelling apologia for the missionary implications of the Three Forms of Unity. The book rebuts the often heard claim that the Reformation and the confessional documents it produced have little or nothing to say about missions. Bredenhof helps Reformed believers to understand that their confessions compel them to care about a world lost in unbelief, and he shows how this confessional heritage leads to missionary activity. It should prove to be a helpful tool for both individual and group study.

Trading and Thriving in Godliness – The Free Presbyterian Magazine (M. Vogan)

George Swinnock is not a well-known; indeed little is known about this life, but his writings speak for themselves in distilling the essence of the Puritan concern for practical godliness. In a brief introduction, Yuille notes Swinnock's constant emphasis that the fear of God is central to the right understanding of godliness. Fifty judicious selections from Swinnock's writings have been arranged under seven sections: the foundation of godliness (the character of God), the door to godliness (regeneration), the value of godliness, the pursuit of godliness, the nature of godliness, the means to godliness and the motives to godliness.

In commending the necessity, beauty and primacy of godliness, Swinnock maintains that it is the business of life. It is the Christians' trade and they must be as diligent in it as any tradesman. "Every moment must be devoted to God: and as all seasons, so all actions must be sacred". He shows how "godliness is profitable unto all things" (1 Tim 4:8), that is, in all conditions, relations, duties and in both worlds. He also shows what it means to "exercise thyself unto godliness" (1 Tim 4:7). His application of these things to the home, the workplace, the conditions of prosperity and adversity are very appropriate and carry a faithful rebuke.

This Puritan has a facility for vivid illustration and is easily read. The book makes an excellent introduction to the Puritans, and we would commend it particularly to the young as an attractive exposition of the truth that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim 6:6). "This indeed is the true life, all other but the shadow of living".

A Treatise on True Theology – Mid-America Journal of Theology, Ryan M. McGraw

Many English-speaking Reformed Christians are unaware that Reformed systematic theology was written primarily in Latin until at least the early nineteenth-century. This means that the virtual absence of Latin in modern education has radically transformed Reformed theological training by cutting it off from the bulk of its classic sources. While translations are expensive to produce, selective in nature, and can never replace knowledge of the original language, they are invaluable in connecting a new generation of readers to the old foundations of their theological heritage. Such works can help foster the unity, purity, maturity, and progress of Reformed theology today.

Junius' work is significant for its content. This is true particularly of the manner in which he defined true theology. In contrast to post-Enlightenment Reformed theology, Junius introduced what became a consensus in Reformed thinking by denying that theology was, strictly speaking, a science. While the meaning of the term, 'science,' narrowed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, post-Enlightenment Reformed theologians defined theology as a science with almost equal unanimity to the earlier rejection of such definitions. This represents a significant paradigm shift in Reformed thought of which few modern readers are aware. Junius denied that *scientia* defined theology adequately because *scientia* consisted of knowledge developed from commonly accepted human principles. Yet theology grew from divinely revealed principles and the supernatural illumination of the Holy Spirit. This also meant that an adequate biblical definition of theology must encompass the new birth and the godly character of the true theologian. For this reason, Junius considered theology, properly speaking, to be *sapientia*, or wisdom because it incorporated regeneration, communion with God, and personal piety within theology rather than merely being the intended results of theology. This reflected the assertion that theology was not a discourse about God as much as it was the saving knowledge of God, in Christ, by the Spirit. The result was that while Reformed scholastic theology could be complex, it should never become dry, since, by definition, it always addressed the mind and heart of the true theologian.

Junius' prolegomena will likely challenge commonly accepted ideas in modern Reformed theology. Yet it is precisely this kind of challenge that the church needs in reconnecting to the great cloud of witnesses that has gone before her, enabling her to stand on the shoulders of her forefathers as she addresses a new generation. Such translations will help prevent the church from being tossed about by every wind of doctrine and to grow up to a perfect man in Christ Jesus.

A Treatise on True Theology, with the Life of Franciscus Junius – Reformed Theological Journal

David McKay

The Reformed theology of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is often caricatured and written off as dry 'scholastic' speculation that owes more to philosophy than to the Bible. In recent years much good work has been done to correct such misrepresentations and to show the true nature of Reformed thought in this period. It is good, therefore, to have available for the first time in English translation the work of one of the key figures in this movement. *True Theology* by Franciscus Junius (1545-1602) deals with the nature of theology,

its sources and structure, what is termed ‘prolegomena’, the matters that need to be settled before the various specific elements of theology are formulated. In particular Junius explains the vital distinction between ‘archetypal’ theology, which is God’s unfathomable knowledge of himself, and ‘ectypal’ theology, the knowledge that God has chosen to reveal to his creatures. The ideas developed by Junius became part of the standard presentation of Reformed theology in succeeding years and *True Theology* shaped the minds of generations of theologians. Among other things, the book demonstrates that, at its best, Reformed Scholasticism was not a cold rationalistic system, but an expression of a living, gracious relationship between God and his people. Although it may take readers a little time to become familiar with Junius’ style and approach, *True Theology* is an important resource to have readily available. Willem Van Asselt’s ‘Introduction’ sets out the historical context helpfully and makes the work considerably more accessible. The value of the volume is also enhanced by the inclusion of Junius’ autobiography.

A Treatise on True Theology, with the Life of Franciscus Junius – Westminster Theological Journal

This edition of Franciscus Junius’s (1542-1602) *A Treatise on True Theology* is more than a first-rate translation of Junius’s most famous work. It includes a fantastic introduction by the late Willem van Asselt (which, by itself, is worth the cost of the book), and illuminating foreword by Richard Muller, a helpful summary of his English translation of the Latin original by David Noe, and a preface to Junius’s autobiography by Junius’s contemporary Paul Merulla, in addition to Junius’s autobiography and treatise. Franciscus Junius is best known for being one of the early respondents to Arminius’s controversial views on predestination and for warning Franciscus Gomarus on his deathbed not to appoint Arminius to succeed him as Professor of Divinity at Leiden. It is a lesser-known fact that Junius’s *Treatise* was the first classic treatment of Reformed prolegomena that provided a rationale for systematically organizing dogma and that set forth theological discourse “as fundamentally a relational enterprise” founded on “the divine-human relationship”. Its significance was such that generations of Protestants borrowed from it, sometimes verbatim, in their works.

It is a joy to see this important work translated into English. David Noe’s translation of the Latin original is lucid and his footnotes are particularly helpful for understanding Junius’s particular word choices...This work is an

invaluable resource for any scholar, seminary student, or avid Christian reader who desires to grow in their understanding of the knowledge of God and the theology of the post-Reformation era. – Greg Salazar, University of Cambridge

What is Experiential Calvinism? – British Church Newspaper

‘What is Experiential Calvinism?’ may seem an off-putting subject to many potential readers. Calvinism is frequently regarded as a dull and dry system of deep doctrine, whilst ‘experiential’ may be an unfamiliar term to many. It would be a shame for any considerations to put anyone off this well written and valuable little book for, as Ian Hamilton (minister of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church) points out ‘Calvinism’ is not a theological theory but a convenient title for a sincere attempt at formulating Biblical truth, whilst ‘experiential’ emphasizes the outworking of those basic truths in the Christian’s daily walk and witness.

What is Experiential Calvinism? – Cumberland Valley Blog

I can still remember the first time I consciously came across the phrase "experiential Calvinism". It was used by the Banner of Truth magazine editor Maurice Roberts and I can remember very vividly wanting to be such a person and praying that it might be so. To some critics, the phrase "experiential Calvinism" must be a misprint or an oxymoron--like jumbo shrimp or military intelligence! But what it refers to is a way of living the Christian life as a Calvinists who experiences the power of that which he or she believes and glories in. I found this to be the very best treatment of the subject and worthy of revisiting frequently for meditation and prayer.

Where Wisdom is Found – Banner of Truth (Jeremy Walker)

We may read the book of Ecclesiastes and be impressed by its beauty and profundity while feeling that the substance remains well beyond us. We confess that it is the Word of God, and that we don’t know what it means. In this book our author deals with Ecclesiastes as a gateway into wisdom literature, exhorting us not to mistake observations for instructions, nor patterns for promises, nor to miss Christ in this portion of the Bible. Working through the book, he gives us an insight into the emptiness of life as observed by the Preacher, and the fullness of Christ, the wisdom of God, in answering that vanity. It is a simple but fruitful technique, helping us to get beyond

mere moralizing and to grips with life in a fallen world as men and women looking to Jesus.

Why Christ Came – Cross Focused Reviews

“Terse yet deep with a simplistic profundity that demonstrates a careful and clinical approach to this important subject matter, *Why Christ Came* will provide the reader with information on that very subject in a way that will drive them to fall more in love with our Savior who came to earth out of love and obedience to the will of the Father. Understanding what that means will in turn provide that all important spark that will make you want to love God and to do His will even more.”

Reviewer: Michael Boling (IntelMin.org)

Rating: 5 Stars

“The authors provided Scriptures for each “reason,” which I thought was important. Each chapter title was a reason that Christ came, and each title was followed by at least one verse that showed that reason. This helped the reader understand that every reason was biblical. Also, the authors wrote in a very clear and simple way. The biblical truth was deep, but it was communicated in an understandable way. These two aspects made this book successful in my opinion.”

Reviewer: Jared Bumpers (jaredbumpers.wordpress.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

“If you’re looking for a devotional for personal or family use to prepare yourself to worship at Christmas time, there is no better place to turn than *Why Christ Came* by Joel Beeke and William Boekestein. I give this book my highest recommendation for those seeking to understand the full meaning of Christmas and Christ’s first coming.”

Reviewer: Kevin Halloran (kevinhalloran.net)

Rating: 5 Stars

“The meditations given are rich, stimulating, thought--provoking, and most importantly, biblical truth. I love the obvious inclusion of the Gospel message. I highly recommend this book. Buy it. Read it. Then read all the books on the authors’ list of suggested reading and study the incarnation even more.”

Reviewer: Becky Norton (lookingaheadtobetterdays.blogspot.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

“This book is rather cosmopolitan. It appeals to pastors and new believers alike. It can help individuals and it can aid family devotionals. The content appeals to the serious student while the brevity appeals to those that are busy. It is laced with Scripture references but the format and prose reads smooth and natural. An easy, obvious recommendation by this reviewer.”

Reviewer: Ryan Rickard (declinationblog.wordpress.com)

Rating: 5 Stars

Works of William Perkins, Volume 1 -- Dr. S. Westcott

This impressive tome is the first volume in what promises to be a monumental set comprising the whole works of the Elizabethan Puritan William Perkins.

This mammoth undertaking is a ‘first’ for the publisher, as this material has not been available since the printing of the original seventeenth-century edition, which then comprised three massive folio volumes. Why Perkins, in many ways an originator of the English Puritan movement and its theology, was omitted in the nineteenth-century

reprinting of so many sets of Puritan 'works' (of which almost all modern Puritan sets are facsimiles) remains a mystery, but with no clear modern typeface edition to work from, Reformation Heritage have had to re-typeset the whole into a clear current typeface, edit (conservatively updating the most archaic phraseology) and put the whole into an attractive and accessible modern format: a colossal task which (to judge from this initial volume) has been performed superbly.

William Perkins (1558-1602) gained his M.A. at Cambridge in 1584, and was appointed 'lecturer' (preacher) at Great St. Andrews Church there, where he associated with men such as Lawrence Chaderton and Richard Greenham in turning Cambridge into an evangelical training centre, becoming pastor and theological mentor to successive intakes of students, many of whom (for example Richard Sibbes, John Cotton, and John Preston) passed on to become leading lights of the rapidly expanding Puritan movement: a process that continued down to Perkins' death in 1602.

Perkins advocated reformation from within the Church of England ("no man ought to sever himself from the Church of England for some wants that be therein", p. 734), opposing those, like Thomas Cartwright, who advocated immediate reform by separation. Nearly eighty years later the famed John Owen (often regarded as England's greatest Reformed theologian) stated that he regarded William Perkins as having been bear to John Calvin in theological acumen.

This substantial volume includes three items. The first is: 'Digest or Harmony of the Old and New Testaments.' In this short item (70 pps, first published in 1631) Perkins aims to aid the Bible reader to place the events of redemptive history in proper sequence. Following an outline introduction he gives detailed table of Bible events, with the years (counting onward from Creation) in which they occurred. Working from the Hebrew, before the famous Archbishop Ussher, Perkins calculates the creation at 3,967 BC.

The second item is: 'Combat between Christ and the Devil', an 85 page 'Commentary on the Temptations of Christ' (1606) based on sermons on Matthew 4:1-11. As might be expected this is rich in practical and devotional matter.

By far the largest item (well over half the book) is: 'An Exposition of Christ's Sermon the Mount' (565 pps, originally 1608), again a massive sermon series from Perkins' Cambridge ministry. This may be the most thorough and exhaustive treatment of the Sermon on the Mount available in English today, wide ranging, doctrinal, devotional, and including special gems such as his exposition of 'The Lord's Prayer.' Those who appreciate modern

works on the Sermon on Mount (e.g. that by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones) will relish this Puritan treasure. Even the Puritans vary in readability. Perkins is by no means 'scholastic' or heavy; his emphasis is always on faithfully explicating and applying the Bible for the spiritual nourishment of his audience.

The book benefits from full Scripture and Subject indices, and is excellently presented throughout. This volume (and even more so the entire series) could provide a lifelong spiritual reference and resource. Those who can afford will not regret the outlay.