
Book Briefs

by Donald E. Demaray

Preludes to Prayer, compiled by Louis Cassels, Nashville, New York: Abingdon Press, 1974. 189 pp.

No minister should go another week without *Preludes to Prayer* done by this famous religious journalist. Cassels reads widely and well, and has put together an anthology of almost incomparable quality.

Put this in the hands of your laymen, too.

Holiness, by Earnest Larsen, New York: Paulist Press, 1975. 106 pp.

Here is a work on holiness that pastors will read with great profit. Father Larson speaks right out of a busy parish where he wrestles with life and death issues — alcoholics, marriages on the verge of collapse, addicts, neurotics, and all the rest of it. Thus, what he says has a cogency not always found in works on the subject. He perceives the chief characteristic of holiness as growth.

Invitation to Adventure, by R. E. O. White, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975. 226 pp. \$5.95.

R. E. O. White, principal of Baptist Theological College, Scotland, for over 30 years pastor, and author of some 15 books, now gives us 52 brief sermons designed to help the preacher homiletically. Sermons are presented from the Gospels, Acts, Corinthians and the Psalms.

This reviewer would like to see an updating of the materials. Thought forms represent another generation, as does language. We are always grateful for sermons rooted in Scripture, but they also need couching in words with which contemporary man can identify.

The Power of Prayer in Business and the Professions, by G. Ernest Thomas, Nashville: Tidings, 1975. 67 pp.

Pastors will do well to purchase a small supply of this little paperback to place in the hands of potential prayer group leaders in industry, business, and the professions. Dr. Thomas in plain and clear language shows the great benefits of corporate devotionals in factory and office, and it is difficult to see how anyone could read this book without a sense of urgency.

From Day to Day, by Frank E. Gaebelin, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975. 195 pp. \$2.95.

Give this book, from the pen of a seasoned Christian leader, to your parishioners. The foundational elements for a genuinely Christian lifestyle are here, and always, Dr. Gaebelin speaks from God's Word. He reminds us vividly of Who is in charge, too.

Gaebelin, accomplished musician, excellent writer, well-known educator, is now retired, living in Arlington, VA, and giving a portion of his time to writing.

The Ministry of the Word, by William M. Taylor, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975. 318 pp.

Baker Book House is doing the theological world a favor by reprinting classic works in inexpensive paperback editions. This volume constitutes the Lyman Beecher lectures for 1876 and is worthy of a place on library shelves.

The work is most particularly relevant to young ministers grounding themselves in basic attitudes and practices.

Of special interest is the recommendation to inductive Bible study long before the creative work of Robert A. Traina and other proponents of the technique. Taylor comes down hard for inductive method.

The work, good enough in its own way and for its own day, is nonetheless obsolete in language, moves slowly and ploddingly about what today we consider obvious, and the exhortatory material sounds to our modern ears very much like unneeded addenda. However, the devotional spirit and content of the book mark its value, as do the practical suggestions

Sense Appeal in the Sermons of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, by Jay E. Adams, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976. 62 pp. \$1.95.

Adams succeeds in drawing our attention to significant phases and facts of our ministerial calling. Rich in ideas and information, the Westminster professor deserves commendation for pointing us in significant directions.

But Adams lacks in depth, in refinement of materials, and perfection of written expression. One could wish for *precision* in his future works.

Nonetheless, Jay E. Adams has succeeded in focusing on the five senses in the sermons of C. H. Spurgeon. Both factors are impor-

tant — senses and Spurgeon. Because the genius of preaching is imagination, the senses play a significant role in communicable pulpit expression; because Spurgeon was so very remarkable (some call him the greatest preacher since St. Paul), the reader is grateful for actual models from the Baptist preacher of London.

It will not take the discerning student of preaching long to skim the cream off this little book.

The Book of Daniel, from the New International Version, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1976. 41pp.

The Committee on Bible Translation responsible for *The Book of Daniel* from the New International Version is to be highly commended for a first-rate piece of work. It is first-rate from at least two perspectives: the language communicates with immediacy and clarity (difficult, at best, in a work like Daniel), and the language also comes across aesthetically, for artists have assisted in the work of translation.

Preachers will greatly benefit by this work because of its vivid portrayals. The secret of communicable preaching is in its pictures; the craftsmen who have rendered this ancient work into contemporary form know how to work with the human imagination.

Pastors will delight to the use of this little paperback, at low cost, for Bible study work. At last this apocalyptic work, hundreds of years old, is capable of comprehension.

Prayerful Christians will appreciate this work because of its devotional value. It is difficult to see how anyone could read it, even with partially bent knees, without benefit.

Leaders will want to order this booklet in quantity for distribution.