



Volume 60 | Issue 1

Article 33

4-28-2017

Strobel's "The ecumenical Edwards: Jonathan Edwards and the theologians" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Labosier, Jeremy (2017) "Strobel's " The ecumenical Edwards: Jonathan Edwards and the theologians" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 33.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss1/33>

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resource for elementary school teachers to use in class, as well as, being a useful part of a well-planned home school curriculum. Not limited to these two venues this resources, it could also be used by moms or during “play-dates”. The book is designed to be adaptable to children ages 2-8 and encourages further learning. It is filled with formative and fun projects that both children and teachers will enjoy. The author has three decades of experience working with children, including developing scripts for Sesame Street, and her expertise is prevalent in this work. She continues to share her knowledge of early childhood education through her role as adjunct professor for various colleges.

Reviewer

T-Ann Currie, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Strobel, K. C. (Ed.). (2015). *The ecumenical Edwards: Jonathan Edwards and the theologians*. New York: Routledge. 270 pp. \$109.95. ISBN 9781317034568

How could Jonathan Edwards, celebrated as the greatest American theologian, find respect in such varied theological circles as Wesleyanism, Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy? Kyle Strobel, whose key earlier text, *Jonathan Edwards's theology: A reinterpretation*, focused on challenging mainstream viewpoints on Edwards, now tackles the unifying work of bringing together disparate scholarship to explore the enduring value of Edwards' thought. Strobel explains, “If Edwards holds a place among the Christian tradition's great theologians then he will be recognized through ecumenical engagement with his thought” (Introduction, Aims of the Volume, paragraph 3). The contributing authors support this thesis as they draw upon their respective traditions and scholastic expertise to develop formative conversations with Edwards.

Each chapter explores a historical figure or doctrine held in a critical discourse alongside excerpts from Edwards' writings. Ample notation allows readers to further explore these connections. Comparative motifs include asceticism, Anselm, the Trinity, Martin Luther, Sophiology in the Eastern Orthodox Church, Thomas Aquinas, typology and Karl Barth, virtue ethics, Gregory of Nyssa, Origen of Alexandria, Third Article Theology, and others. This mosaic succeeds in providing a meaningful conversation on the commonalities, along with notable differences, between Edwards and key theologians throughout church history.

This text offers a welcome integration of Edwardsian scholarship within varied Christian traditions that will inspire further dialogue. Librarians should consider this acquisition to support graduate-level discussions within theology or church history

courses, in addition to serving those seeking inspiration for original research topics. The Church stands to gain much through studying Edwards in different theological communities, and Strobel provides a compelling text to embark on this pursuit.

Reviewer

Jeremy W. Labosier, Biola University

Williams, L. (2016). *Emblem of faith untouched: A short life of Thomas Cranmer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans. 208 pp. \$18.00. ISBN 9780802874184

Leslie Williams, a writer and former fellow of Yale Divinity School, has produced an engaging and robust contribution to the ongoing *Library of Religious Biography* series. As a primer for non-specialists on the life of Cranmer and his contributions to both English and Anglican history it heartily succeeds.

Despite his role in the *Book of Common Prayer*, Cranmer's legacy is often overshadowed by his recantation under Queen Mary. This book proves especially useful in placing Cranmer's actions into the context of his beliefs and circumstances. Williams explores the twin loyalties – to the crown and the Reformation – which animated Cranmer and proved, in the end, impossible to reconcile. Starting with his birth in the summer of 1489 to his execution in 1556, Williams skillfully weaves a compelling narrative of Cranmer's life. An especially nice detail is the use of excerpts from the prayer book to preface each chapter. Like all books in the series, *Emblem of Faith Untouched* avoids footnotes in the service of smooth reading; something the reader may occasionally find disorienting. Nevertheless, the book is a strong addition to the field. This work is highly recommended for all academic levels and libraries.

Reviewer

Joshua M. Avery, God's Bible School and College

Tucker, J. C. (2016). *The end of the island: Finding life in the movements of human suffering, pain, and loss*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications. 159 pp. \$22.00. ISBN 9781498279062

Pain and suffering are inevitably a part of the human experience. In this book the author speaks to that experience by weaving throughout its chapters, the story of an elderly man trying to reach the "end of the island" where he is told the answers to his pain and suffering can be found. His journey is enriched and illuminated by