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## Yarnell's "God the trinity: Biblical portraits" (Book Review)

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Yarnell, M. B., III. (2016). *God the trinity: Biblical portraits*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic. 260 pp. \$29.99. ISBN 9781433680748

In *God the Trinity: Biblical Portraits* Malcolm Yarnell addresses a much-neglected doctrine in the contemporary church, the Trinity. One key feature with Yarnell's writing is his determination that our theology must always arise from the biblical text rather than our theological frame being forced upon the text. It is Yarnell's contention that the doctrine of the Trinity is not a theology forced upon the text but that it is "inextricably woven into the warp and woof of the text" (p. 238).

Yarnell begins each chapter with a particular verse or passage (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Deut. 6:4-7a; John 1:18, 16:14-15, 17:21-22; Eph. 1:9-10; and Rev. 5:6) that he then exegetes and addresses associated hermeneutical issues. This Research Professor of Systematic Theology then concludes his work with an epilogue including ten theses he groups under the headings Trinitarian reality, Trinitarian hermeneutics, and Trinitarian economy. While Yarnell does not waste words and therefore each page must be thought through carefully, it is not above the lay reader. Even as he uses the original languages when needed, there is much to profit from for every Christian, no matter their educational background.

A book review of this minor length could not begin to do justice to a work as important as this. As Yarnell points out in his introduction, recent studies suggest that many Christians affirm the doctrine of the Trinity in name only. When the details are pressed, far too many Christians unwittingly are embracing ancient heresies. Not enough preaching or teaching is dedicated to this key doctrine; Yarnell's book will prove helpful for anyone concerned with correcting this trajectory and deepening their own understanding of the one true Trinitarian God.

### **Reviewer**

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VanDrunen, D. (2015). *God's glory alone: The majestic heart of Christian faith and life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. \$16.99. ISBN 9780310515807.

A curious review of this book on Amazon.com complains bitterly that VanDrunen's contribution to the 5 Solas Series isn't nearly polemical enough, especially against Roman Catholicism. In other words, that reviewer wishes he or she were reading a different book, not VanDrunen's. What the above reviewer construed as an overriding negative I take to be a refreshing positive. Canvassing a range of Reformed writers, VanDrunen lets God's glory speak for itself in all its glorious magnificence and