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## Bennett's "Using the Bible in practical theology: Historical and contemporary perspectives" (Book Review)

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have been made between the Catholic and evangelical Protestant traditions, the reformation is not complete due to either tradition's unwillingness to reform. However, Allison and Castaldo herald that the reformation is finished in the sense that each tradition has demonstrated the ability to "disagree with charity" (p. 150).

This book achieves its agenda and provides a helpful resource for students and lay members of the church seeking to understand the theological nature of the differences between both traditions. Furthermore, the authors have helpfully argued that despite clear differences, the two traditions still stand together at every opportunity where common ground is shared.

### **Reviewer**

Kyle D. DiRoberts, Phoenix Seminary

Bennett, Z. (2014). *Using the Bible in practical theology: Historical and contemporary perspectives*. New York: Routledge. 160 pp. \$31.96. ISBN 9781472456229

In this brief work, Zoë Bennett, Faculty Director of Postgraduate Studies at Anglia Ruskin University and Reader in the Church of England, examines the 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian and namesake of the university where she teaches, to illuminate the use of biblical hermeneutics in modern practical and public theology. The author has a "delighted obsession with the work of John Ruskin" (p. 4) and sees him as a model for engagement with politics, economics, aesthetics, and ethics while being "deeply biblically informed" (p. 4). Bennett thinks that by looking at the cultural influences on Ruskin's biblical hermeneutics, readers may see cultural influences on the way they interpret the Bible. She wrote *Using the Bible in Practical Theology* primarily for leaders and educated laymen in the church who wrestle with how they can relate the Bible to their everyday lives. In Part I, the author deals with what she referred to as the tensions and differences between the "tyranny of experience" and the "tyranny of the text" (p. 5), and in Part II she shows how Ruskin provided an example for resolving that tension. Part III applies Ruskin's way of resolving that tension to contemporary issues.

*Using the Bible in Practical Theology* fills a need for the application of the Bible to contemporary life in a personal, but scholarly, manner. Evangelicals will not agree with the author's belief in an errant Bible and use of liberal theologians, but they may appreciate her examples of the use of the Bible in dealing with contemporary issues.

### **Reviewer**

Jeff Gates, Cedarville University