



4-28-2017

VanDrunen's "God's glory alone: The majestic heart of Christian faith and life" (Book Review)

Mark Tubbs

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Recommended Citation

Tubbs, Mark (2017) "VanDrunen's "God's glory alone: The majestic heart of Christian faith and life" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 44.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss1/44>

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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

Charles Huckaby, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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

complex nuance. Even at points where I wondered if VanDrunen's Calvinism was about to run away with itself, he invariably rescued it with reasoned arguments, biblical insights, and a depth of analysis that I wish were more widespread among Calvinists than it seems to be in actuality.

Also refreshing was VanDrunen's appropriation of scriptural imagery to underscore his exploration of God's glory. Employing Meredith Kline's work on the glory-cloud in Scripture, VanDrunen avoids the caricatured charge of Calvinism's propensity to heady philosophical abstraction in its use of language. Life applications of God's glory – or better, life applications *in light of* God's glory – comprise the final third of the book. In these chapters VanDrunen explores what life lived for God's glory might, could, and should look like in the current postmodern age. Now, more than ever, we need to learn how to live for God's glory alone in an over-complicated world.

Reviewer

Mark Tubbs, Pacific Life Bible College

Kostenberger, A., Benjamin M., & Plummer, R. (2016). *Going deeper with New Testament Greek: An intermediate study of the grammar and syntax of the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic. 550 pp. \$49.99. ISBN 9781433679087

At a time when many are questioning the value of learning Biblical languages, publishers are seemingly ignoring those critical voices and releasing a flurry of new books for the study of New Testament Greek. Among these new titles is *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek*, a collaborative effort by two New Testament professors from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Kostenberger and Merkle), and a third from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Plummer). Their goal was to design a textbook for a semester-long intermediate Greek course or any class building upon a beginning Greek course.

After presenting a helpful summary of the history of the Greek language and New Testament textual criticism, the authors provide a thorough examination of noun cases, the definite article, adjectives, and verb moods and tenses. Participles and infinitives each receive their own chapters, followed by one chapter covering pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, adverbs, and particles. They close their study with helpful discussions on performing sentence diagramming, discourse analysis, and word studies, as well as advice for furthering one's study. Name, subject, and scripture indexes are included to aid readers who use the book as a reference guide.