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Book review of Eric Patterson and Edmund J. Rybarczyk, ed., The Future of Pentecostalism in the United States

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Patterson and Rybarczyk build this text on two prodding questions: Is there a future to American Pentecostalism? What will it look like? The editors employ a wide-ranging group of scholars in pursuit of these two questions. Notable topics include, among others, the temptations and challenges in Pentecostalism’s future (Rybarczyk), the development of the distinctive of “Spirit Baptism” in the movements (F. Macchia), and the emergence of “Postmodern Pentecostals” (E. Creps). An intriguing chapter (J. Hittenberger) brings into focus the future of American Pentecostal higher education as Pentecostalism seeks to situate itself academically and culturally. Three chapters are devoted to denominational issues in the Open Bible, the church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee), and the church of God in Christ. Possibly one of the more interesting pieces (D. Bernard) is on the future within the Oneness tradition. In the forward, Professor H. Cox, who has watched Pentecostalism for over two decades, highlights the importance of such studies in light of its being the fastest-growing Christian movement in the global South. This work is an excellent edition to the growing corpus on Pentecostalism, being accessible to laypeople even while being relevant and informative to academics. It will be helpful for any student of Pentecostalism as it pertains to the American scene.

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