



Volume 58 | Issue 2

Article 47

2015

Hawkins' "Guidestones: Ancient Landmarks of Authenticity for the 21st Century Church" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Martin, W. Terry (2015) "Hawkins' "Guidestones: Ancient Landmarks of Authenticity for the 21st Century Church" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 58 : Iss. 2 , Article 47.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol58/iss2/47>

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**Guidestones: Ancient Landmarks of Authenticity
for the 21st Century Church,**

by O. S. Hawkins, Dallas, TX: Guidestone Financial Resources, 2005.
182 pp. \$9.99. ISBN 9780967158495

Reviewed by W. Terry Martin, Director of Library, Louisiana College, Pineville, LA

In the foreword, O. S. Hawkins states that the purpose of his writing this book “is a sincere and earnest appeal for the church of the 21st Century to rediscover four vital and valuable guidestones ... found in Acts 2.” Throughout the book the author warns that while trying to reach the twenty-first century world the church must not alter the message of the gospel. He also questions if first century Christians would recognize the message in the new, trendy gospel presented by many twenty-first century churches.

Using Acts 2 as his point of reference, Hawkins discusses what he labels as the Four Guidestones by which the gospel must be presented. He repeatedly suggests that without the diligence of the first century Christians to follow the teaching of the apostles the church would not have survived. Thus, his underlying theme is, “All roads lead to Jerusalem.”

Guidestone #1 – The Power of the Gospel (Acts 2:1-13): The twenty-first century church should remember that unity and unction were the keys to the growth and success of the early church.

Guidestone #2 – The Proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 2:14-40): The gospel presented in Acts must not be replaced by a popular, culturally friendly gospel. I call this Guidestone “Hawkins’ Pea Patch” because he says that the proclamation of the gospel must be prophetic, plain, positive, personal, penetrating, persuasive, pointed, pious, persistent, and productive. According to Hawkins, all of the “p’s” are found in Peter’s Pentecostal proclamation.

Guidestone #3- The Preservation of the Gospel (Acts 2:41-46): The gospel must remain true to its New Testament teachings. According to Hawkins this is through believer’s baptism, the Bible, and body life (*koinonia*).

Guidestone #4- The Propagation of the Gospel (Acts 2:47): Christians of the first century were bold and confrontational. They taught that Jesus was the only Truth.

The book does not take an overly scholarly approach, thereby not burdening the reader with footnotes and citations. There is a notes section that lists sources cited. It does, however, offer an excellent presentation of Acts 2 and the importance of remaining true to the teachings of the New Testament for the church of the twenty-first century. This book is recommended for personal study and as introductory matter for courses about Christian witnessing.

His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage,
 by Willard F. Harley, Jr. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2011. 240 pp. \$19.99.
 ISBN 9780800719338

Reviewed by Carol Reid, Librarian, Welch College, Nashville, TN

No wonder this book has sold over two million copies in its twenty-five years in print. It is a practical, readable, well-documented study of building a successful marriage by instructing spouses to meet one another's felt needs. The ten most prominent needs of men and women are examined with questions for couples to consider together and separately at the end of each chapter. These include: affection, sexual fulfillment, intimate conversation, recreational companionship, honesty and openness, physical attractiveness, financial support, domestic support, financial support, family commitment, and admiration. Steps to take if one spouse has been involved in an affair are presented in a redemptive tone in another chapter. Inventories and questionnaires are included as an appendix.

The book is not particularly scholarly, but it is backed by the credentials and experience of a clinical psychologist and marriage counselor. It would be particularly helpful for those studying pastoral counseling or family ministry. It might also be used in premarital counseling sessions. *His Needs, Her Needs* should be considered a classic title in Christian marriage and family collections.

Should a library purchase this new edition if they have an older copy? The page count varies only by ten pages from the 2001 edition and all chapter headings remain the same, though the latest edition promises that it has been updated throughout.