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Hiscox's "The Star Book for Ministers"

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The Star Book for Ministers,

Reviewed by Shelia Gaines, Head of Circulation, University Of Memphis, Memphis, TN

This third revised edition, which includes a copy of prefaces to both previous editions, could be described as an updated classic. The first section, On Being a Pastor, includes not only clear sections on entering the Christian ministry and preaching the gospel, but also pastoral care, wedding, funerals and church administrations.

The bulk of the text is in part two: Selections from the Sacred Scriptures. It contains brief sections on twenty-nine aspects of the pastorate and Christian living that include salvation, invitation to discipleship, good works, faith and trust in God, readings for the sick and shut-in, praise and thanksgiving, and the resurrection of Christ.

Sections three and four are basic instructional guidelines for traditional marriage and funeral services and some suggested sermon texts.

The final section, parts five and six, is comprised of parliamentary considerations for churches and ecclesiastical forms and blanks.

This handy, pocket-size reference should be especially useful for new ministers and experienced Christians alike.

Studies in Paul’s Letter to the Philippians,
by Hans Dieter Betz, Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2015. 200 pp. $135.00. ISBN 9783161531194

Reviewed by Acie Rist, Student, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

Considering the common opinion among New Testament students that Paul’s letter to the Philippians is the most difficult to interpret, Betz aims, in his work Studies in Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, to “present further investigations regarding specific passages or problems [within Philippians] yet unresolved or even undiscovered” (p. 1). Over the course of his work, Betz employs philological and historical methods in his investigation of five critical text segments that contribute to his interpretation. As part of his investigation of the five passages, Betz compares Paul’s use of literary methods with the literary methods of his historical contemporaries, such as Plato, Epicurus, Aristotle, Cicero, and Seneca. Betz also considers Paul’s immediate historical context to develop his interpretation of the problem passages. This is