



Volume 57 | Issue 2

Article 26

2014

Wilder, Brand, Chester, Osborne, and Seifrid's "Perspectives on Our Struggle with Sin: Three Views of Romans 7" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Jensen, Dale R. (2014) "Wilder, Brand, Chester, Osborne, and Seifrid's "Perspectives on Our Struggle with Sin: Three Views of Romans 7" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 57 : Iss. 2 , Article 26.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol57/iss2/26>

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Perspectives on Our Struggle with Sin: Three Views of Romans 7,

By Terry L. Wilder, Chad Brand, Stephen Chester, Grant R. Osborne,
and Mark Seifrid. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2011. 213 pp. \$24.99.
ISBN 9780805447910.

*Reviewed by Dale R. Jensen, Director of Library Services,
Evangel University, Springfield, MO*

The purpose of this book is to compare and contrast three similar but different interpretations of Romans 7. The authors of each chapter describe how they have come to their conclusions and cite others who have similar views or dissimilar views. Each author is given opportunity to respond to each viewpoint, emphasizing where they agree or disagree with that particular interpretation.

I believe that each of the five men involved in this project have excellent credentials for tackling a work such as this, but I found myself wondering if anything was accomplished. The very opening line of the acknowledgments on page ix states, "Christians have discussed Romans 7 for years." The first line sentence of the conclusion on page 201 states, "I think we have seen that there is much here to debate, but there is also much on which we can agree." I have concluded that this debate will not be settled until Jesus comes, and then it will not matter. Although fascinating, this book has little value because it does not bring the reader to a conclusion but perpetuates a never-ending debate over a theological issue that doesn't merit the price of the book.

Praying through Hard Times: Finding Strength in God's Presence,

by Linda Evans Shepherd. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2014. 192 pp. \$12.99.
ISBN 9780800723125

Reviewed by Karen Gallacci, Assistant Librarian, Greenville College, Greenville, IL

Praying through Hard Times: Finding Strength in God's Presence, by Linda Evans Shepherd, is written for anyone looking for a stronger prayer life and walk with the Lord. In twelve chapters, numerous personal circumstances or situations are presented. The reader is shown how to break through extremely difficult situations, fight against the power of darkness, trust God, have peace, and find real joy through prayer. Bible passages are interspersed throughout the book with reference to how Bible characters handled different situations. Quotes from many other respected writers, as well as the author's own personal experiences, add extreme value to each concept. The most unique parts of this book are the sample prayers woven throughout. These prayers are remarkable because it is as if the author has already seen right into the