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## Resource Reviews

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# The Christian Librarian **TCL** R E V I E W S

**How to Read the New Testament: An Introduction to Linguistic and Historical-Critical Methodology**, by Wilhelm Egger; translated by Peter Heinegg; edited by Hendrikus Boers. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. 232 pp. \$29.95 ISBN 1-56563-149-8.

*Reviewed by Lyn S. Brown, Librarian, Director of Information Services, Seminary of the East, Dresher, Pennsylvania.*

This English edition is translated by Peter Heinegg from the original German publication of 1987 by Wilhelm Egger entitled *Methodenlehre zum Neuen Testament: Einführung in linguistische und historisch-kritische Methoden*. Hendrikus Boers edited this work and provided an extensive thirty-three page introduction that included background information regarding various critical methodologies and their application to the interpretation of the text of the New Testament. The editor pointed out that the historical-critical method is related to recent linguistic theory.

The author introduced his scholarly treatment with a twenty-four page bibliography. A shorter six page bibliography entitled "Helps for the Study of the New Testament" can be found at the end of the book and could easily serve as a collection development aid for any seminary library.

The author began his seventeen chapter treatment with an introduction to the basics of "reading". Different levels of "reading" include the subjective first "reading", the peculiar nature of scholarly "reading", and the various categories of competent "reading".

The remaining sixteen chapters were organized into six parts which included textual theory, preparatory steps in analysis, synchronic reading,

diachronic reading, historical readings, and hermeneutical reading. The treatment of interpretation and actualization of New Testament texts is clearly intended for Greek scholars in seminary classrooms, faculty offices, and the workrooms of Bible translators. This scholarly book is not recommended for Bible college libraries.

**Preaching the Hard Sayings of Jesus**, by John T. Carroll and James R. Carroll. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. 174 pp. \$16.95 ISBN 1-56563-230-3.

*Reviewed by Lyn S. Brown, Librarian, Director of Information Services, Seminary of the East, Dresher, Pennsylvania.*

The father-son team collaborated as co-authors in examining those teachings of Christ in the Gospels that are routinely avoided by most expositors when they are looking for inspirational material for Sunday morning sermons. This scholarly work looks at sixteen stories, statements, and parables through the exegetical lenses of the younger Carroll and the homiletical window of the father.

The sixteen passages are divided into five chapters under the topics of grace, discipleship, judgment, parables, and the humanity of Jesus. The younger co-author provided an original translation of the passage along with an interpretation. Each section was concluded by a short sermon and a list of recommended books and journal articles pertaining to the passage. Extensive endnotes were provided at the end of each chapter.

A review of the authors' treatment of the difficult passages on divorce and remarriage included a complete examination of the cultural and historical aspects of divorce and the challenges that Jesus faced in the culture of

that day. The sermon by the elder Carroll did not seek to diminish the ideal of Jesus' teaching, but rather encouraged the reader to respect God's standards for both truth and grace.

An exhaustive bibliography and three helpful indices conclude this treatment of the hard sayings of Christ. This quality attempt is appropriate for the serious homiletics student at seminary or the pastor in the ministry. It combines an effort to be both challenging and encouraging. †

## WANTED: *Book Reviewers*

Please contact Review Editor, Bob Ellett, with your selection of titles from the resources listed in "Resources Received."

You will receive the item, along with guidelines for writing a review and a deadline for submission.

Your review will be printed in the next issue of *The Christian Librarian*.

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