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Fisk's "Jonathan Edwards's turn from the classic-reformed tradition of freedom of the will" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Fisk, P.J. (2016). *Jonathan Edwards's turn from the classic-reformed tradition of freedom of the will*, New Directions in Jonathan Edwards Studies, vol. 2. Bristol, CT:Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. 441 pp. \$113.00. ISBN 9783525560242

Philip John Fisk, senior researcher in Historical Theology at the Jonathan Edwards Center Benelux, argues that Jonathan Edwards withdraws from holding the classic-Reformed tradition of freedom of the will, to a view he embraces for freedom of the will. Fisk does an astounding work proving his argument. From the beginning to the end of this book, he provides historical evidence to prove his point. He utilizes Harvard University, Princeton University, and Yale University commencement theses in the first portion of this book as evidence to argue his point. Fisk examines Adriaan Heereboord and Charles Morton, two instructors, who taught at Harvard University and Yale University. These two instructors provide the classic-Reformed view. The purpose of the book has been accomplished with precise attention and detail and backed by credible sources. Fisk also provides significant evidence supporting the view that Jonathan Edwards held to the freedom of the will. It is beneficial because it helps the reader to understand what view Jonathan Edwards held, rather than just proving the abandonment of the classic-Reformed view and concluding the book.

It is implied this book has intention for a specific audience, which are doctoral students and scholars in Jonathan Edwards studies. This book is an immense resource for those individuals as a textbook and as a scholarly resource. This book contributes to the field of study because it is providing proof of abandoning the classic-Reformed view of freedom of will and providing freedom of perfection view. The evidence of freedom of perfection could help a future researcher write on the topic. This book is extremely thorough; however, a reader could get caught up in the detail and at times lose the flow of the outline because of constant comparison throughout the book. This book is well-documented with detailed footnotes, bibliography which includes primary and secondary sources, and index of names. The table of contents displays a detailed outline of the book.

Reviewer

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