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Arthurs's "Preaching as reminding: Stirring memory in an age of forgetfulness" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Arthurs, J. D. (2017). *Preaching as reminding: Stirring memory in an age of forgetfulness*. Downers-Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press. 166 pp. \$18.00. ISBN 9780830851904

Preaching as reminding is a careful examination of memory in and throughout the Bible, and it skillfully applies this biblical theology to the art of preaching. Jeffrey Arthurs adds another role to the preacher that of being the Lord's remembrancer in their preaching, their life and their ministry. The remembrancer stirs the memory of Christ-followers, reminding them of the truths they once heard and fans the flames of faith in them.

The world today is fast-paced and full of information and many distractions. More than ever, we need to be reminded of the great truths of the faith so that they are not forgotten. When done well, preaching-as-reminding is not empty, or superficial repetition. Rather, it is the work of soul-watchers that offers wise insights that are pertinent to themselves and to the ones to which they are speaking.

Preaching as Reminding describes the dynamic role of the remembrancer, who prompts thankfulness and repentance, raises hope, fosters humility and wisdom, and encourages obedience and community. With decades of preaching experience, the author explains how to stir memory through vivid language, story, delivery, and ceremony. He wraps up the book speaking of communion as the supreme ceremony of remembrance for children of the new covenant. He urges preachers to take up this task of remembering or reminding with excitement and hope because the Lord God has commissioned and equipped them to serve as the Lord's remembrancers. Truly one remembers something when it is a matter of life and death.

This book gives voice to an unspoken burden that so many preachers and students in homiletic classes carry: the drive to preach the old story in a new, original and refreshing way. People want to follow a friend, mentor, leader who practices what he or she preaches and who articulates it well.

I highly recommend it for students in Bible colleges and seminaries. It is also written in terms that laypeople would understand.

Reviewer

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