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Gene's "The Spirituality of the Cross-Expanded and Revised" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Gene, V. (2010) *The spirituality of the cross- expanded and revised*. Concordia Publishing House. 208pp. \$15.99 ISBN 9780758613035

The *Spirituality of the Cross* is giving a historic Christian tradition that have been forgotten by many. This book gives an idea of the diverse Christian traditions and how these have been forgotten by the churches of today. It further introduces the Lutheran spiritual tradition and how it closes the emptiness caused by today's living. The author, Gene Veith Jr., shows vast reading as he quotes various writings on Christianity and Christian living. He has written several literatures on Christian guidelines and loving God in daily living. His teachings promote Christian ethics. He particularly goes into discussing the inadequate theology of today's Christian living and points direction to fulfilment that is possible through the spirituality of the cross. In this book, the included end notes and bibliography leads to more documentation in this subject.

The explanation of the significance of "content" in spirituality clarifies how the mundane Christian institutions that cause the emptiness felt by many Christian can be solved by an understanding of the spiritual aspect of the Cross. The Lutheran's understanding about worshipping and spirituality is brought to the fore through the distinction of "sin" and "Grace". Grace through the justification of faith are part and parcel of Christian traditions that have been taken for granted through morality by Christians of today. Moralism which thrives in earning God's favour is shown to be un-accomplishable without the spirituality of the cross. Christians' liberal thinking, ignores the importance of the cross in the spirituality sense. There are many things to consider in day to day living, actions and what one feels is entitled to as a Christian in relation to the Cross. The book points Christians and non-believers to view the cross in a more spiritual way. According to this book, the cross is a spiritual journey, rich with grace and deserving of worship. One is given a reason and a stance in life nowadays and gets an answer to the question on why "the cross" had to be travelled by Jesus in the first place. The author has enlightened the readers by highlighting how Lutherans understand the cross in Christology.

This book gives an understanding even to those who are new to theology and Christology. It contributes more to the vocation in the Lutherans, and is well documented. The additional chapter in this edition actually brings more knowledge and much needed introspection for Christian living that was not there when the first edition was crafted.

Reviewer

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