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Davis and Lerner's "Worship together in your church as in heaven" (Book Review)

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resurrection of Jesus, rather he chooses to only focus on the good things Jesus taught and relegates the resurrection to a story concocted by Jesus' followers.

The author takes the priority of soul salvation out of the biblical formula for reforming mankind and replaces it with the notion that "we need to focus on how to effectively address the problems of climate change, abortion, poverty, guns, economic inequality, toxic political discourse and all the other flash points of today." It isn't that these "flash points" should be on our priority list that I disagree with – it is that the author dismisses the primacy of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I do think this a book that should be read by Christians everywhere in order to understand where one will find themselves if they reject the biblical Jesus in favor of man's wisdom.

Reviewer

Dale R. Jensen, Evangel University

Davis, J., Lerner, N. (2015). *Worship together in your church as in heaven*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 202 pp. \$22.99. ISBN 9781426788062

Worship together in your church as in heaven is authored by Josh Davis and Nikki Lerner. Davis is the founder of Proskuneo Ministries in Clarkston, GA, which promotes unity in the Body of Christ through multilingual and multicultural worship gatherings, worship resources and worship training for leaders. Lerner serves as the worship ministry director at Bridgeway Community Church, a large multicultural congregation near Baltimore, MD. Davis and Lerner both coach, speak and teach worldwide.

Before the topic of leading a multicultural worship service is broached, the authors lay a firm foundation of developing relationships leading to a diverse worshipping community. Topics addressed are: why God desires the nations worship together, the importance of immersing in other cultures, and the attitude of the worship leader being other focused (pastor, staff & congregation). As exciting as being a multicultural worship leader can be, they are trail blazers and hence challenges abound.

Only after covering preparatory issues do the authors delve into the practicalities of multicultural worship. Topics in this section include: who/what do you have, worship is more than music, the power of language, introducing multiple languages and models of multicultural worship.

I highly recommend this title for use in developing a multicultural mindset in one's congregation and for specifics for someone leading a worship team. The reflection sections throughout make it a great choice for a textbook and/or tool for pastoral staff, worship teams, etc. Several institutions in both the United States and United Kingdom have adopted it for their curriculums. The readability will further stimulate and stir the hearts of interested laypersons.

Reviewer

Lindsay Van Sicklen, Ouachita Baptist University

Yaghjian, L. B. (2015). *Writing theology well: A rhetoric for theological and biblical writers*. (2nd ed.). New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark. 441 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9780567499172

Featuring the collective experience of a half-century of writing in the humanities and in theology, Lucretia B. Yaghjian is more than qualified to write, let alone revise, a handbook on writing theology well. Building on her well-received 2006 release, Yaghjian's revision updates bibliographic information and incorporates concepts that she has since incorporated into her teaching as Director of the WRITE Program at Episcopal Divinity School, and as Adjunct Faculty at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. The volume has also been enlarged by the addition of two new sections on writing theology in an international and digital context.

As some will have intuited by the institutions named above, Yaghjian belongs to a mainline denomination. I mention this factor because she draws many of her best-practice exemplars and writing prompt exercises from her mainline colleagues and influences. Using these could possibly, yet need not necessarily, distract students (and even faculty) from the actual task of improving in theological writing. But it would be a shame if those more conservative students and instructors were to miss out on the pedagogically rich "Theological Memo" feature, the label Yaghjian gives to the writing prompt exercises dispersed throughout her book. Given the advanced scholarly vocabulary, the frequent allusions to figures in literary and theological criticism, and the sheer length of the volume, I would recommend this as a valuable instructor and advanced student resource worth an inch of shelf space in any academic library serving those who aspire to write theology well.

Reviewer

Mark Tubbs, Pacific Life Bible College