Webster's "Table Grace: The Role of Hospitality in the Christian Life" (Book Review)

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accomplished by investigating Paul’s imprisonment, as well as his relationship and contractual agreement with the Philippians. Due to his thorough research, Betz can provide a plausible interpretation to the problem passages.

Because Betz is only concerned with investigating five problem passages in Paul’s letter, he distinguishes his work from typical biblical commentaries that examine the letter passage by passage. The corpus of Betz’s scholarly work clearly follows his thesis in an organized and well-documented manner.

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**Table Grace: The Role of Hospitality in the Christian Life,**
$14.99. ISBN 9781845507527

**Reviewed by Lisa B. Hayes, Librarian, Indiana Wesleyan University**

“The promise of the Gospel was meant to be shared around the table,” (p. 47).

How many times did Jesus gather His disciples together with food and drink and talk to them? By sharing a meal He helped them physically to maintain their strength, but the spiritual nourishment of the meal was by far more important. As He “nourished” His disciples with His words, they grew stronger in faith and clearer in understanding of His great love.

This book calls us to use our own homes and meals to extend hospitality to those who are seeking as well as to fellow believers that we might help each other to grow in faith. With examples from the Bible of how God used the simple mealtime of everyday people to foster greater understanding of His Son, this book provides a “lesson” in biblical hospitality.

Each chapter lends itself to a week’s study in a discipleship group or Sunday school class, though there is no accompanying leader’s guide or video series. There are a few discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

This would be an ideal study for the renewal of a church’s food service ministry team or for those feeding the homeless. Ordinary Sunday school classes or small groups could use this to reach out to neighbors, co-workers, or potential new church members or new group members. Parenting classes could draw from it to show the importance of mealtimes in disciplining children.
In the college or university setting, it would be an excellent study for individual dorms, or, in larger settings, dorm floors (or similar) to build community within the university or to build relationships between “Town and Gown” in a new, more personal way.

Feeding souls while feeding bodies – what could be more Christ-like?

The Teaching Ministry of the Church,

Reviewed by Shelia Gaines, Head of Circulation, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

In his foreword, Daryl Eldridge, editor of the first edition of this title, emphasizes the seriousness of the mission of discipleship. He describes this book as a “guidebook not just for those responsible for the teaching and administration of the discipleship ministries of the church but for anyone who is passionate about seeing Christians grow in their faith. It provides a biblical and theological rationale for the teaching ministry of the church” (p. xii).

Parts one and two explore the theological and biblical foundations for the teaching ministry, while parts three and four focus on preparation and structuring.

In an introductory format, the editor begins the first chapter with his own first foray into Christian education and concludes with a thorough explanation of the Disciplers’ Model, which has an outer circle that represents the Holy Spirit as Teacher, “the One who holds all the other elements together in a balanced synergism which rest on the two foundations of the Bible (eternal truth) and needs of learners (present needs).” Yount describes this model as his teaching compass; it uses three pillars – think, grow, and value – to define the process of spiritual growth (pp. 8-9).

All succeeding chapters of this work end with discussion questions, bibliographies and/or suggestions for additional readings and include the elements of the Disciplers’ Model; including appropriate chapters such as God as Teacher, Jesus, The Master Teacher, The Holy Spirit as Teacher and The Bible as Curriculum. One contributor’s conclusion proposes, “We teach to change lives. Our goal is to see life as God does. We need to renew our understanding, to adjust our thoughts and actions so we can understand God’s will” (Rom. 12:2; p. 42).