



Volume 58 | Issue 1

Article 20

2015

Crisp, Porter, and Elshof's "Christian Scholarship in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects and Perils" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Averill, Gary R. (2015) "Crisp, Porter, and Elshof's "Christian Scholarship in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects and Perils" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 58: Iss. 1, Article 20.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1360>

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There are additional sections of recipes, songs and games. The recipes are incomplete for the foods listed on the traditional Seder Plate (e.g., p. 13 “bitter vegetables” mentioned nowhere else except in the illustration of the plate). The book contains word and spelling errors in Hebrew (e.g., p. 16 where the traditional kiddish prayer is labeled kaddish [a prayer for memorial, not for blessing wine] and p. 54 where the blessing for lighting candles ends in the Hebrew word Pesach = Passover which is instead translated in English as Sabbath). The authors make incorrect generalizations about all Jews celebrating certain customs, (e.g., p. 68 the lamb shank being a bare bone rather than a roasted lamb shank) and what all Christians believe (e.g., p. 128 that Christians believe Elijah returned as John the Baptist).

For Christians desiring an in-depth understanding of the Passover, this book is too confusing to help them understand.

Christian Scholarship in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects and Perils,

edited by Thomas M. Crisp, Steve L. Porter and Gregg A. Ten Elshof. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014. 196 pp. \$ 22.00. ISBN 9780802871442

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What is Christian scholarship, why is it important, and how is it different than secular scholarship? These are the questions this book tries to answer. The book loosely holds to the theme that Christian scholarship can be an important part of scholarship because it can add to and answer questions that secular/naturalism scholarship cannot. This book consists of ten essays which were written by prominent researchers in various fields of Christian scholarship. These essays were presented at a conference in May of 2012. Many of these essays have been peer reviewed. They were discussed at round tables and some were part of a semester class that invited prominent Christian scholars to speak. The introduction did state this project was to reach out to scholars and beyond but this goal was not reached because the audience that most of the authors were writing to were their fellow peers. The essays are very in-depth, well written, and have a lot of citations making this an excellent survey resource for the various areas of Christian scholarship. The breadth of this book is huge; each essay is an in-depth exploration of a particular area of Christian scholarship (average essay is 15 to 20 pages). This book includes essays ranging from art and Christian scholarship, to feminism and Christian scholarship, to how Christ on the cross affects Christian scholarship. This book is suited for those in the field either as a graduate student or those who are scholars grappling with the idea of Christ as a part of modern scholarship. For those who are trained in secular/naturalism research this book goes against most of their training and understanding since it relies on Christian ethics, training in theology, and Jesus.