

Mormon Christianity: What Other Christians Can Learn from the Latter-Day Saints. By Stephen H. Webb. New York: Oxford University, 2013. Pp. ix + 217. \$27.95.

In this volume Catholic theologian Webb elaborates on a chapter-length argument in his *Jesus Christ Eternal God* (2012), where he posits that Mormonism's theologizing on the materiality of spirit positions it to better respond to modernity's naturalist challenge to religion. This is not, as the subtitle unfortunately suggests to the polemicist, an argument for Mormonism's veracity. Rather, W. uses Mormonism's "bigger set of ideas" (182) to prod those who resist any thought of "materialist metaphysics" for fear of undermining divine sovereignty.

Although the Calvinist–Mormon debate frames the book, it is not W.'s real interest. His ultimate objective is to show Christianity's historic susceptibility to a materialistic metaphysic and the need to recover it. Mormon heresy is rooted in this countertradition, he argues, and usefully provides a model for restoring the ideal that "nature is already thoroughly supernatural right down to the smallest atom, and the supernatural is nothing more than nature in its most intense and concentrated form" (148). Such a recovery is, he writes, necessary to counter a contemporary scientific naturalism that has become so commonsensical as to make religion appear nonsensical and irrelevant.

W. artfully and accessibly describes both sides of this metaphysical debate. In doing so, he has written one of the best summaries of Mormon cosmology and theological anthropology in print and provided a useful primer for the classroom. The weight of his argument, however, is carried by an equally insightful critique of historical Christian theology, both Protestant and Catholic. Much of this criticism is hidden in appendixes A and B, perhaps because of editorial fear of the general reader's low tolerance for theology. Reading these, as well as the accompanying critique of Mormon theology, is necessary for realizing the full, thought-provoking potential of this slender book.

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Reinventing Liberal Christianity. By Theo Hobson. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. Pp. viii + 322. \$30.

Hobson's book offers a significant attempt to rejuvenate a liberal Christianity that affirms the deep affinity between the gospel and political and cultural freedom (i.e., the liberal state). Hobson examines with clarity and conviction the theological and philosophical roots that led to imagining and creating the liberal state in the mid-17th century, distinct from the intentions of the radical reformers (chiefly Anabaptists). H. is a British theologian who, at the beginning of this volume, distinguishes between the "good" tradition of liberal Christianity (or liberal Protestantism) and its "bad" counterpart, where Christianity presents itself as an essential rational worldview that loses the