

Shorter Notices

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Theologians on Scripture. Edited by Angus Paddison. London: Bloomsbury T. & T. Clark, 2016. Pp. x + 236. £85.50.

This book brings together chapters from 14 theologians: eleven from the United Kingdom and one each from Germany, New Zealand, and South Africa. They were asked to respond to such questions as: “What has been the implicit or explicit theology of Scripture that you have worked with? How has the reading of Scripture shaped your theological vision? *With whom* do you read Scripture? *For whom* do you read Scripture? In your theological work how have you utilized the contribution of biblical studies” (5)?

Some authors talk frankly about the place of Scripture at different points in their lives; others maintain a more detached and academic stance. Among the most informative are Zoë Bennett (“Finding a critical space: Scripture and experience in practical theology”) and Christoph Schwöbel (“Read—pray—trust: One theologian’s encounter with Scripture”).

The contributors represent Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, and Reformed traditions, but none of the chapters is authored by a Catholic theologian. The contributors engage a few Roman Catholics (e.g. Lisa Sowle Cahill, Paul Murray, and Charles Taylor). Obviously I would like to have seen some engagement with *The Bible for Theology: Ten Principles for the Theological Use of Scripture* (1997) authored by Daniel Kendall and me. Three of the contributors retrieve what David Kelsey wrote in *The Uses of Scripture in Recent Theology* (1975). But none stop on the way to engage with Kendall and me.

Occasionally Latin terms suffer: *regula fidei* (112), *meditatio* (189–91), and *lex credendi lex orandi* (139). Apropos of Karl Barth’s observation about doing theology with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other (31), the original locus for that remark is found well over forty years earlier than the version cited from *Time* magazine for May 31, 1963. On November 11, 1918, he wrote to Eduard Thurneysen: “one broods alternately over the newspaper and the New Testament.”

This volume should be widely welcomed, and not least for its persistent stress on theologians as preachers of Scripture and for the light it throws on the development of such authors as Robin Gill, Timothy Gorringer, Tom Greggs, and Graham Ward.

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