

BULLETIN

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A World of Ideas

This is a world of ideas, good and bad. The world is made by ideas. Our world is in the process of passing out ideas which will shape tomorrow's world. These kinds of folk are involved:

1. Those whose ideas are crystallized. They will not be affected directly by these ideas. The world goes around them and to all intents and purposes they will not confront the new.

2. Those who confront and are taken in by these ideas. These folk are awed at the very appearance of new ideas. Sometimes they are logically persuaded. Often they do not think out the problems involved.

3. Those who try to understand. Once they understand they will accept the truth and reject the error. Many new ideas have both true and false statements in them. What is true should be accepted as such. Evaluation is the best method. Listen to or read one with fresh ideas and be stimulated thereby. This is how sound religion has survived criticism. The critic often lays his finger on our weaknesses. Many times we can re-adjust our thinking and meet the issue.

Get into the swirl of ideas and think with the thinkers. A religion that cannot stand up under reasoning is never secure.

Of course, reason or wisdom does not have the final word because men are at best faulty in their reason. That is where faith comes in. Faith adopts the direction of what is known and believes in the infinite.

Book Reviews

Heralds of God, by James S. Stewart, New York: Charles S. Scribner's Sons, 1946. Price \$2.50.

This fine little book of 220 pages should be read along with the author's other book, A Faith to Proclaim. Dr. Stewart's works have actually revitalized the thinking of many who were decadent in their faith. These two works are books on preaching. This particular one deals with the work of the preacher.

It offers five short chapters. In the chapter, "The Preacher's World", the author deals with those to whom you preach, some of the problems which are confronted, some of the philosophy which guides the world, the suggestions on how the preacher is to meet his world. In the second chapter, "The Preacher's Theme", he makes a strong appeal to the preacher to preach Christ. He declares that this must be preached in the context of the sin of the world,

that is in the consciousness of the sin of the world. "The Preacher's Study" is the third chapter. Here, Dr. Stewart makes a very strong plea for the preachers continuous approach to truth. It is not enough to have finished school, it is important to keep digging, keep studying. Chapter four, "The Preacher's Technique", is a chapter which deals not only with techniques in preaching, in visiting, in working with his members, but also ethics of living as a preacher. The final chapter is the greatest for the preacher, "The Preacher's Inner Life", in which he makes a very strong appeal to the preacher for taking care of his devotion, constantly confessing himself before God as a sinner, digging deep into his spiritual life as he digs deep into his intellectual life, the study, the indispensable quality is a man on fire for Christ. I commend this little book to every preacher. It will help him.

Religion as Salvation, by Harris Franklin Rall, New York: Abdingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1953. Price \$3.00.

Dr. Rall is a good writer. He has, of course, an attitude of mind which is not Baptist. Most preachers would receive very little help from this work because he does go far from Baptist beliefs. Not many would go with him on his chapter, "Symbol and Sacrament". He does state something that most of us would accept, he ask, "What is the form of baptism? Should it be by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling?" The earliest custom was probably immersion as Paul's words suggests. But the exact form was apparently not viewed as something prescribed, and the other form used when immersion was not feasible. This, of course, is in good Methodist form. All preachers ought to know the beliefs of others, and with this in mind, I would commend the reading of this book to you. But in addition

to this, I am sure you would receive a great deal of help from many of the discussions. Many people do not like to read books that differ from their own approach, but how else can you stimulate your own position? How else can you research your own position other than by the reading of the works of others. A reading of Dr. Rall would convince any person of the fact that here is a man who is devout in his Christian faith. While it will leave him feeling that he is bound by creed the same as all "creedal church folk", yet in his faith he is as deeply spiritual as is possible for a man to be. Read him carefully and see if you are not a deeper Christian after reading him. I find it most inspiring.

New Centers began since January

Apparently Hobbs, New Mexico and Forest, Mississippi have the largest enrollment. Hobbs has enrolled more than one hundred, while Forest has enrolled about sixty. One church is sending its pastor and Sunday school leadership to Forest and is paying the tuition of all.

Surveys are under way in South Carolina and North Carolina for centers. North Spartanburg association has approved a center; Greensboro, North Carolina has approved a center and is surveying the field. There is wide interest now in extension education, and the hunger for Bible knowledge is growing. Now is the time to lay plans for a fall school. Plan well and publicize thoroughly in order to get best results.

CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS.....
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