

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT

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WHOSE PROBLEMS?

Are segregation, civil rights, and other related issues problems of civil government only? Often we have heard these issues so characterized. Now admittedly, we can keep the surface of our stream calmer if we can relegate these issues to categories beyond our bailiwick, for there exists fundamental differences of opinion among us. The quiet nature of many meetings could be changed by the admission of these issues, but there seems to be a "gentleman's agreement" not to discuss them. This may not be the time to create disturbances among our well ordered associations and conventions in view of a multitudinous number of interrelated factors. We ought, however, to face quite frankly the fallacy involved in the dismissal of the race issue as a "civil problem."

Civil government in a democracy is a concern of the church (forgive the connotation of my term), for church leadership gives character to government. Right and wrong are Christian issues whether they involve relationships between government and populace, government and government, or people and people. So if an issue is tabbed "civil" it is still a matter of concern on the part of the church and of Christian fellowships.

The issue here involved is religious in content; it asks Christian questions and demands Christian answers; it involves Christian understanding, and seeks Christian solutions; it stems from attitudes that can be measured by Christian conscience, and in the context of the Christian faith it must be interpreted.

Christians as individuals are responsible for maintaining the spirit of brotherhood that is

inter-woven into the Christian faith. We cannot be Christians if we cannot be brothers. That is the underlying problem of the Bible from Moses to Patmos. Christianity was born a separate movement because of Jewish repudiation of this new concept of brotherhood. Much of the early confusion within the church revolved around this universal aspect of redemption. We are now grappling with the same problem essentially, although the character of the problem is changed to involve the color line.

In short, I am asked in my Christian conscience, "Can I be a brother to every Christian regardless of his race?" The answer to this question resolves racism ultimately. It is not only a matter of conscience; it is ethical, and as such it must pervade every relationship of existence.

Lee Gallman.

BOOK REVIEWS

Jesse Wilson Hodge, *CHRIST'S KINGDOM AND COMING*, With an Analysis of Dispensationalism (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1957).

The author states in the beginning of his book that it is not a scholarly work, but is written with the Christian worker in mind. The purpose of the book is to focus attention upon the speculations of dispensationalism, especially its teachings regarding the kingdom and coming of Christ. Stated clearly is the charge that dispensationalism is robbing the Christian of a true faith in the second coming of Christ. With this thesis stated the author forthrightly sets out to defend it.

The first half of the book is used to discuss the kingdom and the dispensationalist teaching

concerning it. One cannot help but be impressed with the author's over-zealous endeavor to disprove the dispensational teaching regarding the kingdom, which claims it is political but the author maintains it is spiritual.

The second half of the book is an excellent discussion of the church, especially as it is related to the rapture, tribulation, and millennium. In it the author gives his views and contrasts them with dispensational teaching. One will find this a delightful, refreshing, and thought-provoking section of the book.

Here is a book that will be of interest to those who would like to acquaint themselves with dispensationalism and what it teaches. It will be of value to the dispensationalist, who will be challenged with the criticisms set forth by one who is not an advocate of their theory, yet a firm believer in the second coming of Christ.

-Albert Fauth

Malcolm Boyd, CRISIS IN COMMUNICATION (Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1957), \$2.95.

The author, in seeking to examine mass media and communication from the vantage point of its moral and religious implications for the modern church, reveals some startling analyses. In an "age of publicity" Christianity is faced with the challenge of utilizing the implements of public relations and publicity in a world-wide missionary effort. It is immediately thrown into a paradox as it recognizes that it must stand in judgment of these same implements.

Malcolm Boyd senses the fact that churches must employ these new media to communicate their message and suggests some little known experiments that will facilitate this effort without doing damage to the essential character of the Christian gospel. The book is very readable and thoroughly documented. I feel that it is a substantial contribution to the field of Christian public relations and publicity for the churches.

-W. A. Whitten

Begin your fall study program now! Enroll in the next course in your series.

Paul Tillich, THE SHAKING OF THE FOUNDATIONS, THE NEW BEING, and DYNAMICS OF FAITH.

Instead of reviewing one book, I want to call attention to three books by one of the outstanding figures of our time, Paul Tillich. The first one was published nine years ago, a collection of sermons under the title, THE SHAKING OF THE FOUNDATIONS. Like many other books, it gets its title from the first sermon. Two sentences will indicate something of the trend of these messages. "That same science, in the saving power of which these false prophets believed, has utterly destroyed that idolatry. The greatest triumph of science was the power it gave to man to annihilate himself and his world." There is no wonder that this book became an important work in its day. It is still a tremendous work. Scribner's, \$2.95.

If the former work was pessimistic in tone, the next one, THE NEW BEING, also by Scribner's in 1955, gave an answer in the person of the Saviour. It deals with the possibility of man's redemption, renewal, and resurrection into new life.

The third book is DYNAMICS OF FAITH, published in 1957 by Harper. In the first chapter he defines faith as "faith is the state of being ultimately concerned. The dynamics of faith are the dynamics of man's ultimate concern." The dynamic concept of faith is the result of a conceptual analysis, both of the subject and of the objective side of faith. Only the concern with what is truly ultimate can stand against idolatrous concepts.

If one would know Tillich, and particularly that side of Tillich that is devotional, these three works are highly commended. Of course, his SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, Volumes I and II, are commended, but no one would think of these works as being read on the level of the average devotional literature. They are some of the most provocative writings of our time.

-Lee Gallman

STATISTICAL REPORT

Correspondence students	2,285
Extension center students	<u>7,492</u>
Total	9,777