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C. S. Lewis and His World (Book Review)

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sheep, and the new denomination grew, slowly but solidly.

Many of the issues which led to the formation of the O.P.C. are still with us. All true Calvinists can benefit from the insights and message of this book. As we approach the twenty-first century and the third millennium we cannot afford to forget! This would also be an excellent book to give or recommend to those adults who are joining the church, and want to understand more of our reformed background.

Pressing Toward the Mark consists of thirty essays written by leaders of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for the fiftieth anniversary of that denomination in 1986. At the end of the volume there is also a bibliography of the works of J. Gresham Machen, including also a record of reprints and translations up to 1984.

Of the three books here reviewed, this one is the heavyweight. It shows that biblically-directed learning is still strong in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. It reflects upon a variety of topics which should be of interest to all Calvinist pastors and elders, whether they belong to that denomination or not.

The essay portion of the book is divided into four parts. In the first part there are seven essays reflecting upon the foundations for historic presbyterianism, including valuable contributions by Richard C. Gamble on "Presbyterianism and the Ancient Church" and "Distinctive

Emphases in Presbyterian Church Polity" by Edmund P. Clowney.

The second part deals with the American Presbyterian experience. It covers well the experience and controversies which arose prior to the 1930's.

The third part give perspectives on the issues which led to the formation of the O.P.C., and the turmoils of its early years. Mark Noll writes on "The Spirit of Old Princeton and the Spirit of the O.P.C." D. Clair Davis discusses "Machen and Liberalism." George Marsden supplies "Perspective on the Division of 1937." But it is not all a matter of doctrine unrelated to people. David W. Kiester has written an excellent piece on "The Life and Death of a Dakota Church" which helps the reader sense what the struggle was like when it was translated into the life of a particular congregation.

In the fourth part there are several essays discussing the mission and current issues now facing the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The problems and opportunities of the mission fields are explored well.

This is an excellent volume, and deserves a wide reading. *Pressing Toward the Mark* summons all of us to consider anew our calling in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to understand more fully what the Apostolic faith means, and the suffering it sometimes involves.

C.S. Lewis and His World. David Barratt. London, England/Grand Rapids, Michigan: Marshall Pickering/William B. Eerdmans, 1987, 46 pp. Reviewed by Lorna Van Gilst, Instructor in English.

David Barratt provides the perfect resource for the person who wants a quick overview of the personal and literary life of C.S. Lewis. A forty-six page volume obviously limits the scope of the C.S. Lewis world, but attractive full-color or sepia photographs, which appear on nearly every page, greatly expand the setting.

Barratt draws from a wide variety of primary and secondary sources to recreate the world of the still-popular Oxbridge scholar, but he tells us little that is new to the Lewis devotee. However, he skillfully weaves biography through overviews and criticisms of Lewis' fifty volumes of fiction, allegory, literary criticism, and apologetics.

"Lewis is best at commending literature, less certain in criticizing it," says Barratt (140), who in turn commends Lewis with more certainty than he criticizes. Barratt presents Lewis as a "supremely confident writer" (41) whose perception of myth and metaphor, whose invention of pro-

foundly powerful images filled lecture halls with students and inspired their love for literature.

By contrast, Barratt exposes the writer Lewis' tendency to argue dialectically, reducing the logic to black-and-white-solutions and even failing to sufficiently ground his arguments in the Bible. In addition, Barratt acknowledges Lewis's male-dominated focus and his questionable views on limbo and purgatory. But he criticizes with the respect of a Lewis admirer who recognizes the scholar's ability to write profound concepts in layman's language, again largely through the use of images and analogies.

C.S. Lewis and His World offers the reader a credible view of an incredible writer who shares with his readers his capacity to doubt, to struggle, to long, to mourn, and through it all, to realize the joy of embracing the Christian faith.

Pat Robertson: A Personal, Political and Religious Portrait. David Edwin Harrell, Jr. San Francisco, California: Harper and Row Publishers, 1988, 246 pp., \$15.95. Reviewed by Nick R. Van Til, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy.

Following an extended discussion of the TV ministries and ministers, the March 18, 1988, issue of *Christianity To-*

day furnishes "a selective, annotated bibliography" by Quentin J. Schultze of the Calvin College Communications