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## This Was John Calvin, Sermons on the Saving Work of Christ, and John Calvin's Sermons on the Ten Commandments (Book Reviews)

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tribution to Christian thought and action, Michiel von Meyenfeldt of the Committee on the Problem of War of the Reformed Churches (GKN) also takes a strong pacifist's stand on nuclear weapons and says Holland faces the choice of either allowing the arms race to continue or leaving NATO. But von Meyenfeldt refrains from giving an answer to this difficult choice.

Administrative official Henk van Ruller endorses the policy of the Dutch Development Minister Jan De Koning of 1) treating the developing countries on an equal basis concerning their access to the international money and trade markets and 2) by means of publicity focussing Dutch development policy on the problems of the poorest countries first of all. Theologian Anton Wessels sees that continued confrontation between Israel and the Arabs threatens world peace, even peace between the USA and the USSR. For this reason Wessels calls for Israel (and the USA by implication) to engage in direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization of Yaser Arafat in order to deal with both the problems of the oppressed Palestinians and of the socially weak in Israel. CDA Europarlamentarian Bouke Beumer feels that developing countries are turning to the European Community for help and inspiration because of problems with both America and the Soviet Union. In this context Beumer feels the European Christian Democrats can have a positive influence in bringing about a world order of justice, freedom, and solidarity if based on biblical norms. The politically active women Philie Burgers, Mieke Schotting, and Marga Smit call for women to contribute to Christian politics on the basis of a feminist theology of emancipation.

Political youth leader Helmer Koetje addresses himself to the growing problem of third world minority groups in Holland, now estimated at about 720,000 persons. Koetje wants the CDA to have a special concern for these peoples as a matter of fraternal solidarity, and

*This Was John Calvin*, by Thea B. Van Halsema. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1959. 221 pages, paper, \$3.95. *Sermons on the Saving Work of Christ*, by John Calvin (translated by Leroy Nixon). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1980 (reprinted from Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company's 1950 edition). 302 pages, paper, \$7.95. *John Calvin's Sermons on the Ten Commandments*, edited and translated by Benjamin W. Farley. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1980. 326 pages, \$12.95. Reviewed by Russell Maatman, Professor of Chemistry.

Baker Book House has performed a useful service in providing us with these works by and about John Calvin. Van Halsema's book, sure to be as popular now as when it was first published, is crammed with interesting facts about Calvin and also is very easy to read. Nixon selected and translated twenty of Calvin's sermons—two on the deity and nativity of Christ, nine on his passion and resurrection, four on his ascension,

he calls on the Dutch government of CDA Prime Minister Dries Van Agt to implement a comprehensive minority policy embracing employment, housing, special education for their cultural needs, and social services. Bob Goudzwaard calls for the realization of a new mentality in economic life based on the Christian idea of stewardship and a modest life-style.

It is important for observers in America to recognize that the radical stance of this booklet is an honest attempt by sincere Christians to articulate a contemporary Christian Democratic political stance in the Dutch and European context. Reflection on the biblical norms for public affairs is always valuable for our own discussion and the present work is no exception. During the past generation it is quite true that Christian Democratic parties in several European countries have degenerated into pragmatic center/right or center/left parties, with little more than lip service to a Christian basis for politics. Since most of the contributors to this booklet are from the Anti-Revolutionary Party, founded a century ago by Abraham Kuyper, they are sensitive to the need constantly to relate Christian Democratic politics to personal faith and biblical norms. Thus they are correct in wanting to affirm a sound biblical basis for the CDA and an agenda of tasks and priorities that reflect that basis.

Yet it is debatable as to whether or not the CDA has a sufficient Christian basis, enthusiastically endorsed by its members, to prevent the gradual slide down the slippery road of pragmatism. Likewise the advocacy of direct Israeli negotiations with the PLO and the radical policies of nuclear pacifism and women's liberation are hotly debated within the CDA and among Christians everywhere.

Above all this booklet is a challenge to interested Reformed voters in North America to reflect on these important matters as carefully and for as long a period as have Dutch Christian Democrats.

and five on Pentecost and his return. Each sermon is based on a Scriptural passage which is printed in the text. Of Calvin's 200 sermons on Deuteronomy, Farley chose the sixteen on the ten commandments. These sermons were originally given in 1555. Both books of sermons are liberally footnoted; all three books are recommended to both the specialist and the general reader.