
Pro Rege

Volume 3 | Number 4

Article 6

June 1975

Evangelical Faith (Book Review)

James A. De Jong
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege

Recommended Citation

De Jong, James A. (1975) "Evangelical Faith (Book Review)," *Pro Rege*:
Vol. 3: No. 4, 25.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol3/iss4/6

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Dordt Digital Collections. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Dordt Digital Collections. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

lishing churches, for in Part I he himself stresses the liturgical-missionary character of the church as God's instrument for reconciling the world to Him.

"God's Mission and the Church's Tensions," Part III, appraises the increasing polarization between certain evangelicals in the missionary movement and many World-Council-of-Churches-oriented mission figures. Several chapters discuss in depth the theology of the liberation approach to missions as articulated by Latin Americans. Peter Beyerhaus, on the evangelical side, is severely criticized for his polemical attitude toward ecumenical efforts in mission. Part III is probably as fair and comprehensive an assessment of discussions in missions today as has appeared anywhere.

Costas is a third-world churchman from Costa Rica. He is a rising star on the missiological horizon, whose theological brilliance and whose painstaking effort to be Biblical as well as relevant in his writing make him a figure to be read seriously by anyone who wishes to stay informed in the area of missions.

The Evangelical Faith—by Helmut Thielicke. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1974. 420 pages, \$10.95. Reviewed by J. B. Hulst, Dean of Students and College Pastor.

Helmut Thielicke is First Dean of the Theological Faculty and Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Hamburg, Germany. He is the author of several books, such as Between God and Satan, A Little Exercise for Young Theologians, Out of the Depths, and The Silence of God.

Until the publication of his Theological Ethics, Thielicke was best known in this country as a preacher. According to G. W. Bromiley, translator of the book under consideration, Thielicke's "real vocation, however, has been that of a theologian, and it is no secret that he has been disconcerted rather than flattered that his incidental activity should have become the basis of his reputation. The present work should help to correct the situation" (p. 5).

The Evangelical Faith is the first of a three-volume dogmatics. The second volume will consider the doctrines of God and of Christ, and the third will deal with the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the Church, and eschatology.

The Evangelical Faith bears the subtitle Prolegomena: The Relation of Theology to Modern Thought Forms. This subtitle is significant, for it clearly describes what Thielicke endeavors to do in this first volume. As the author himself states in the preface:

This first volume of a systematic theology will attempt clearance work in a cluttered situation. It will survey current debates from a defined standpoint, try to pin down terms like myth or death of God which are often bandied about far too freely, and seek to give them their true meaning. The attempt, then, is to get a grasp of modern theology, sounding out and preparing the ground on which to build. (p. 11)

But Thielicke is concerned with more than a grasp of modern theology. It is his purpose, within the context of modern theological debates, to set forth a doctrine of faith. Further, he is determined to articulate this doctrine of faith without presenting theology as anthropology. Seeking to dissociate himself from those who deal with faith only as it is integrated into the human consciousness, Thielicke expresses interest, not so much in the subject of faith, as in that in which faith believes and by which man is changed into a new creature.

Whether Thielicke succeeds in the realization of his purpose depends not only upon what this volume contains, but upon that which will appear in the second and third volumes of this comprehensive work. Therefore, we eagerly await the appearance of those pages which constitute the total result of Thielicke's stated attempt to produce a comprehensive work.

The Idea of a Christian College—by Arthur F. Holmes, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1975, 118 pages, \$2.95 (paper). Reviewed by Nick Van Til, Professor of Philosophy.

Professor Holmes writes out of the background of many years of teaching experience and student contact at Wheaton College. He packs a lot of ideas into this little volume. The subtitle, Philosophy of Christian Education for Laymen, is appropriate as Holmes' lucid writing