

Seedbed XII

Reading on, we come to the section on the Holy Spirit. In previous ages the Holy Spirit came on scattered individuals for a limited time. When He was poured out on the entire Church, this was accompanied by mighty miracles. The author explains the miracles in the light of what Luke wrote in the second chapter of Acts, saying that the phenomenon was a miracle of speech, not of hearing. It was a unique event, yet Paul placed it below love. The author soars to the greatest heights of thought and expression when he describes the summit of Christ's work, when He humbled himself and came to this world, then was lifted up from us.

The book closes with a chapter on eternal life. Materialism appeals to modern man using delusions of happiness. But thanks be to God! By the coming of Christ, He has revealed the true answer to the question of eternal life: death is nothing more than the end of our earthly life, and eternal life is already present in those who believe.

Bavinck's book is an excellent resource for students of theology, whether they are engaged in formal studies or simply want to navigate the wide seas of Biblical theology. It is one of the most profound studies available in Arabic. It may be true that it does not provide a response to recent theories and heresies, because it was written before them. But it has the great advantage of not being influenced by old speculations and errors, and it does not give uncritical acceptance to views which are not committed to the revelation of God's truth as it is presented to us in the Bible from beginning to end.

When God Calls, by Miss Irene Dew, Gateway Publishing, 1996, 118 pages. Reviewed by W. Evans

This is an autobiography of a remarkable woman who was deemed as too frail and sickly to go to the mission field. She went on to spend forty five years as a missionary in Morocco, most of that time in Rabat, and much of it working alone.

The book is a collection of word sketches from Miss Dew's recollection of her life and ministry. Although following a general chronological sequence, there is considerable moving back and forth through the years, as recounting one incident triggered another memory. There are several chapters, in fact, which fill in events and details of previous chapters as memories seemed to come flooding over the author.

Miss Dew's commitment to God's call, her perseverance in pioneer ministry, her sensitivity to God's leading, and her faith shining through deep consciousness of her own weakness will refresh and challenge the reader. Her story is one of missionary work in a bygone generation and in a context unlikely to be reproduced today.

Unfortunately, the literary quality of the book is greatly diminished by numerous orthographic and punctuation errors which could easily have been corrected. It appears that the handwritten manuscript must have been read by an electronic scanner which misinterpreted multiple characters and that this was never proofread.