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Review: The Burning Heart: John Wesley, Evangelist

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Burning Heart: John Wesley, Evangelist, by A. Skevington Woods, B.A., Ph.D., F. R. Hist. S. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1967), 302 pages, ($4.95) reviewed by Elmer L. Towns, M.A., Th.M., Associate Professor of Christian Education, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

This volume analyses the life and ministry of John Wesley especially his role as Evangelist. Woods, who himself is involved in evangelism, has keen insight into the evangelistic outreach of Wesley. This well documented erudite coverage gives the reader confidence in the author's reliance on original sources. Yes, the account capitivates the reader concerning the heavenly flame of evangelism that may have been the greatest since the acts of the apostles.

One would have expected a better coverage of the controversy that surrounds the conversion of Wesley, especially since the book deals with evangelism which includes conversion. Woods accepts the 1738 date without adequate coverage of the 1725 date. Also, we might have expected more analysis of Wesley's changing posture of evangelism, that with the maturing of the preaching chapels and the growth of second generation Methodist, Wesley's evangelistic techniques changed.

The book is divided into three sections: I. The Making of an Evangelist; II. The Mision of an Evangelist and III. The Message of an Evangelist. This volume satisfies the ned for a contemporary evangelical to write on Wesley in a day such as ours. We should re-examine the church in light of the methods and doctrinal emphasis of Wesley. Woods rightly intreprets Wesley's positive proclamation of the Word of God as a full remedy of sin.

Along with this book, read *John Wesley: A Theological Biography* by M. Schmidt, the German Lutheran Theologian (one volume translated into English). These two books represent the finest works written on Wesley in modern time.

Shield Bible Study Outlines: The Epistles to Titus and Philemon. A Study Manual. By Philip C. Johnson. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. Baker Book House, 1966. pp. 100 $1.50

This attractive handbook is one of some twenty-two volumes (more are promised). The New Testament is covered completely in the series, except for James and the Revelation; the Old Testament is represented in the Shield series by a half-dozen volumes one of which is Professor Johnson's treatment of Daniel.

The Shield Bible Study Outlines help to fill the gap between the heavy-weight, technical,, detailed treatment of critical commentaries and the devotional-homiletical literature.

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