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Review of Lenten Reflections: A Closer Walk

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following the patterns of this age. Against this backdrop, he lays the foundation via unpacking the doctrines of Scripture alone, Christ alone, Grace alone, Faith alone and Glory to God alone. Unbelievers, Armenians and even Calvinists have strayed from the essentials of the faith in a variety of ways. The final section of this book examines what renewal looks like as it relates to worship and our lives. We must depart from worship that has been cheapened and trivialized and seek worship that magnifies God character and our need to come to Him for forgiveness, mercy and grace.

Although this book is very readable, it is also well suited to as a supplementary text for an undergraduate course.

Lenten Reflections: A Closer Walk, by Jeanne Conte. Huntington, NY: Troista Books, 2001. 186 pp ISBN 1-56072-737-3

Reviewed by Rory Patterson, User Education Librarian, Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio.

How much does the average patron know about Lent? Where would one turn to learn about the various Lenten traditions? Where could one go for a devotional to start celebrating Lent? Jeanne Conte's *Lenten Reflections* is an excellent answer to these questions.

Conte has gone to great lengths to have this book serve all parts of Christianity. She prefaces the book with letters of agreement or sanction from leaders in several different Christian sects, including Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, Episcopal, and Lutheran. This sets the tone for the book itself; it celebrates the commonality of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection for all Christians, despite the various ways of celebrating – or not celebrating – Lent.

Conte starts the book with a history of Lent and the main traditions of celebrating Lent, Eastern, Western, and Protestant. The first section – which includes the longest chapter at ten pages – is a good introduction to the

biblical and traditional parts of Lent, and gives directions on using the book for Lenten celebration. The second part continues Conte's sensitivity in its numbering, following both Eastern and Western schemes.

The usual daily reading has several verses in it and averages three pages; short devotional readings to start one thinking on the reason for Lent and Easter. Conte writes well for causing reflection. Most of the readings have themes, which include the fourteen Stations of the Cross, the Ten Commandments, and Passion Week.

The Words of Gardner Taylor, vol. 3, compiled by Edward L. Taylor. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2000. 208 pp. \$22.00. ISBN 0-8170-1347-4.

Reviewed by John Aloisi, Assistant Librarian, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, Michigan.

This volume, subtitled *Quintessential Classics, 1980–Present*, is the third in a five-volume set and is primarily comprised of sermons by Gardner C. Taylor. For those unfamiliar with Taylor, he has been lauded by some as one of the greatest preachers in the English-speaking world. No less a source than *TIME* magazine once labeled him “the Dean of the nation's Black Preachers” (*TIME*, Dec. 31, 1979, cited in Taylor, p. 6). Taylor delivered the address at the prayer service for the inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton in 1993, and he also preached the 100th Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale University. During his forty-eight year ministry at Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, Taylor saw the church grow to more than nine thousand members and established himself as one of the most capable exponents of the social gospel.

Volume one of the set includes sermons preached by Taylor on NBC radio between 1959 and 1970. The second volume of this set contains sermons delivered in various settings during the 1970s. The present volume is

comprised of sermons that were preached between 1980 and 2000. The sermons are devotional in nature and quickly grab the reader's attention. One can easily read through several sermons without experiencing a hint of boredom. A weakness of this volume is its lack of a unifying theme. The sermons appear to be a fairly random assortment of socially driven messages. Volume four consists of sermons preached on special occasions including the memorial service for Martin Luther King, Jr. at Harvard University in 1972 and President Clinton's inaugural prayer service in 1993. The final volume includes various lectures and essays by Taylor. This set is accompanied by two audio CDs that feature six of Taylor's sermons. The serious student of Taylor will enjoy hearing his sermons as he actually preached them.

For those looking for an introduction to the homiletical abilities of Gardner Taylor, this series is a good place to start. However, while evangelicals may profit from exposure to Taylor's oratorical skills, they will not want to use Taylor as a model of sound exegetical preaching. Some academic libraries will probably want to pass over this set due to its devotional nature and moralistic bent.

A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship, by Michael Horton. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. 249 pp. \$19.99. ISBN 0-8010-1234-1.

Reviewed by John Aloisi, Assistant Librarian, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, Michigan.

Michael Horton is currently an associate professor of historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California. He edits the *Modern Reformation* magazine and serves as president of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. Horton has also either authored or edited more than a dozen books, most of which are related to reformed theology.

In *A Better Way*, Horton takes the