

12-1984

Review: Tough Times Never Last, but Tough People Do!

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Hawkins, Ronald E., "Review: Tough Times Never Last, but Tough People Do!" (1984). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 28.

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IN REVIEW

Divine Healing Today

by Richard Mayhue, Moody Press, 1983, 168pp., \$5.95.

Reviewed by Jarl K. Waggoner, free-lance writer in Lynchburg, Virginia.

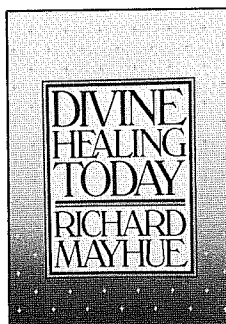
Much has been written on the modern healing movement in recent years. Unfortunately most of it has been rather superficial and fails to adequately deal with the scriptural data. In *Divine Healing Today* Richard Mayhue has given us a book that is thoroughly biblical and eminently practical—a rare combination of scholarly study and practical insights.

Mayhue's work answers the need of pastors and laymen for a solid, biblically balanced and non-contentious approach to the topic. As a scholar in his own right (Th.D., Grace Seminary), Mayhue demonstrates careful exegesis and theological reflection in this study.

Divine Healing Today is a successful attempt to throw the light of biblical revelation upon this controversial subject. Part 1 of the book deals with the biblical record of divine healing in the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts, and Epistles. While brief, this overview raises some interesting points that modern faith healers have for the most part ignored: God often afflicted; God healed unbelievers; Jesus approved of doctors; faith was not always necessary for healing; healing techniques varied. Also included is a discussion of Isaiah 53 and the question of healing in the atonement. Drawing upon Matthew's translation of Isaiah in 8:14-17 the author demonstrates the careful distinction between sacrificially *bearing our sins* and simply *taking away our sicknesses* (p.50). He clearly shows that the redemptive value of the Atonement is primary, and there is no present guarantee of healing (pp.52-53). A provocative discussion of miracles and what constitutes a miracle leads to the

conclusion that God does heal today, but not miraculously through men, because this is not His method of healing in our day (p.84).

Mayhue also discusses reported healings today, citing documented cases of misleading reports, deliberate fraud, satanic involvement, the healing capacity of the body, wrong medical diagnoses, and psychosomatic and emotionally induced illnesses. One only wishes the author would have given some space to specific techniques employed by modern faith healers. Such an investigation would itself explain the majority of so-called divine healings performed today.



Part 2 of the book focuses on the Christian's response to sickness. Included here is a helpful study of James 5:14-20. Mayhue argues forcefully for symbolic anointing and prayer by the elders with the expectation of divine healing *if* the sickness is sin-related and proper confession is made. The author concludes by looking at some of God's purposes for allowing sickness and illustrating these with a personal example and a fascinating interview with Joni Eareckson Tada.

The appendixes are an invaluable study tool, listing topically the biblical passages relating to healing. They are an excellent place to begin one's study of this subject.

While there will not be complete agreement on every point made in this book, it is probably the best single volume the pastor or layman can have on the subject. It is a well-outlined, well-indexed work, valuable for study, reference, and for the one confronted by today's healing movement.

Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do!

by Robert Schuller, Thomas Nelson, 1983, 238pp., \$12.95.

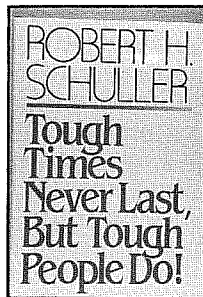
Reviewed by Ronald Hawkins, associate professor of pastoral counseling, Liberty Baptist College and Seminary, Lynchburg, Virginia.

This is a great book! Surprised? Don't be . . . Robert Schuller is an excellent writer who has given some positive help to people in trouble. While this book reveals Schuller's weak theology, this book offers help to people facing problems.

In *Tough Times* Schuller weaves beautiful biographies of real people struggling with real problems. The work is laced with Schulleristic proverbs of "possibility thinking." For example: "When you've exhausted all possibilities, remember this: You haven't!" "Never let a problem become an excuse." "God's delays are not God's denials." "Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly." While these concepts are true, he fails to demonstrate them from Scripture.

The author also provides excellent lists of how to tackle problems: every living human being has problems, every problem has a limited life span, every problem holds positive possibilities, every problem will change you, you can choose what your problem will do to you, and there is a negative and a positive reaction to every problem.

His lists also include "Twelve Principles for Managing Problems Positively" (Don't surrender to forces, faces, frustrations, fantasies, fears, etc.), "Ten Commandments of Possibility Thinking," "Alphabet for Action" (Affirm, Believe, Commit, Dare, etc.). While many of these sayings appear simplistic, they reveal the personal philosophy



of the nationally known minister. Most of these principles can be clearly seen in the Proverbs, although the author never draws the parallel. The chapter on prayer is excellent and powerfully illustrated by a moving personal account of Schuller and his son.

While Schuller's theology (or lack of it) is the book's greatest weakness, it does offer practical suggestions for helping negative-minded people who have given up on God, the Bible, and themselves. If Schuller's thesis is true, and tough people do outlast tough times, then we need some tough counseling to confront those who have dropped out of the race and surrendered to their problems instead of to God's solutions.



Conceived in Liberty

58 minutes. Rental and purchase prices may be obtained by writing American Portrait Films of Southern California, 1695 W. Crescent Ave., Suite 500, Anaheim, California 92801.

Reviewed by Jim Savley, executive director, Save-A-Baby Ministry, Lynchburg, Virginia.

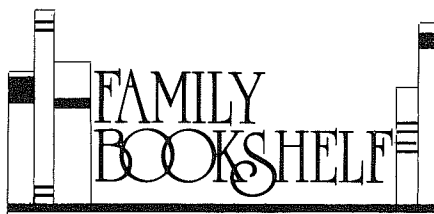
Conceived in Liberty, a definitive film about the development of life, is

perhaps the most professionally produced and informative pro-life film to come along since *Assignment Life*.

Watching *Conceived in Liberty* as it presents the pro-life issue and the reality of abortion is a powerful and moving experience. The film includes interviews with the employees of a container company as they recount their experience of finding 17,000 aborted fetuses in a garbage container in southern California. Then, via the politicians, the film shows the judicial and legislative battlefield, and the opposing opinions on all sides of the abortion issue. Abortion is discussed in an informative way by experts in the medical profession who explain their views on human life and its beginnings. Probably one of the most moving sequences shows experimentation done on an aborted fetus, until the baby dies. This scene is accompanied by Dr. Bernard Nathanson's comments on the physician's actions.

A dramatic presentation of abortion is highlighted through a sonogram during an actual abortion, showing the child's struggle to escape the probing suction tool by moving to opposite ends of the womb. As the instrument begins to tear and remove sections of this living human being, this dot matrix baby image recoils in pain and dies.

Conceived in Liberty is without a doubt the best update on the pro-life movement and a dramatic educational tool on abortion. American Portrait Films of Southern California has produced a film that should be viewed by church groups, pro-life organizations, schools, and anyone who wants or needs to be informed on this modern-day holocaust.



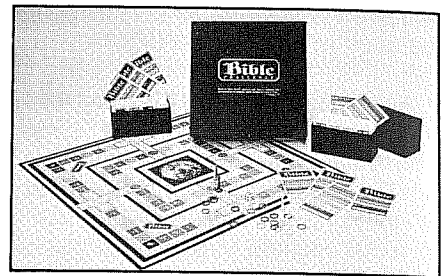
Bible Challenge

by Bible Games, Inc., \$29.95.

This excellent new game provides a fun-filled learning experience for the

entire family. While Bible Challenge is played in much the same way as the popular Trivial Pursuit, the promoters quickly note that the Bible is not trivial. They have designed the game to stimulate the players' mental power to record and recall Bible facts. Players win by correctly answering questions in different categories such as Old Testament, quotes, places, life of Jesus, and so on.

The well-designed questions cover a broad range of difficulty. Some, young children will readily answer—others, most adults will not. A helpful touch is



the inclusion of the Scripture reference with each answer. This allows players to look up the context of the answers and turn a game into a series of short Bible studies for the whole family or a group of friends. Part of the genius of the game is its flexibility, which encourages creativity.

The well-crafted and durable game carries with it the price of other trivia games, but it is well worth it. —D.B.

Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life

by Charles R. Swindoll, Multnomah Press, 1983, 405pp., \$12.95.

This is an exciting devotional book. Charles Swindoll, using the four seasons of life and the four seasons of the year, blends those together with exciting devotional truths to create a sensitive and beautiful devotional book. There is a wonderful diet of hope for those who are struggling, challenge for those who are weary, and inspiration for those who simply need to be motivated to move ahead for the glory of God. Scripture is carefully woven into these devotional thoughts, and here we see Charles Swindoll at his very best. —R.H.

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