

---

SOR Faculty Publications and Presentations

---

3-1984

## Review: Recent Homiletical Thought: An Annotated Bibliography, V 2 (1966-1979)

Paul R. Fink  
*Liberty University*, [prfink@liberty.edu](mailto:prfink@liberty.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/sor\\_fac\\_pubs](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/sor_fac_pubs)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Comparative Methodologies and Theories Commons](#), [Epistemology Commons](#), [Esthetics Commons](#), [Ethics in Religion Commons](#), [History of Philosophy Commons](#), [History of Religions of Eastern Origins Commons](#), [History of Religions of Western Origin Commons](#), [Other Philosophy Commons](#), [Other Religion Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Fink, Paul R., "Review: Recent Homiletical Thought: An Annotated Bibliography, V 2 (1966-1979)" (1984). *SOR Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 95.  
[https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/sor\\_fac\\_pubs/95](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/sor_fac_pubs/95)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in SOR Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact [scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu](mailto:scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu).

# IN REVIEW

## FOR PASTORS

---

**Walvoord: A Tribute**  
by Donald K. Campbell  
Moody Press  
1982, 353pp., \$15.95

Reviewed by Donald R. Rickards  
Professor of Cross-Cultural Studies  
Liberty Baptist College  
Lynchburg, Virginia

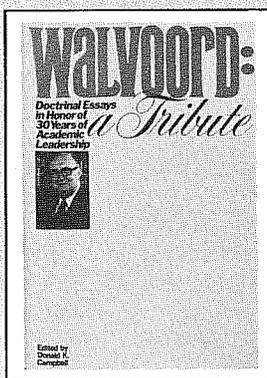
---

This delightful handbook of scriptural truth will be treasured by all fans of Dallas Theological Seminary and of John F. Walvoord, in whose honor these essays are presented. Some articles while good are quite predictable (those by Saucy, Johnson, Constable, Pentecost, Minirth/Meier, Geisler, Lightner, Hodges, and Toussaint).

Others of the articles call for comment. Hoehner's article on the "Purpose of Tongues" leaves one wondering why he limited his exegesis to an ill-defined passage in 1 Corinthians 14, when a few more verses would have answered the questions he raises. Howe includes insightful models in his article on Creation and Evolution, an important issue today. Zuck's article is not new in deriving meaning from the biblical text, but does give a variety of ways to apply truth. This is one of the chief values of this volume, and all who minister the Word at any level will be grateful for it.

Nunez gives an excellent summary on Universalism, including both historical and contemporary aspects and both Vatican II and Liberation Theology. This, too, is an issue of cur-

rent importance and adds value. In a day of theological confusion, Hannah is refreshing in his treatment of the historical development of the doctrine of Christ. Glenn offers a Case Study in Hermeneutics that raises the wrong question and gives the wrong answer. The question: Can the New Testament citation be used to determine the original text, the meaning of terms, and the exegetical and theological significance of the text *for the original hearers or readers* (italics mine)? Obviously, the answer is no, if you include the italicized words. Just as obviously, the answer is yes if you are speaking of the text's meaning for twentieth-century readers. Since Peter tells us that the prophets were unable to determine the meaning of messianic passages, and Paul states that the "mystery" was not previously known, twentieth-century readers of the Word of God enjoy the whole Word of God in deriving a specific interpretation.



There is one article on the Scriptures themselves ("Inerrancy," by Witmer) and one on the person of Christ (by Hannah) but none on the Father nor on the Holy Spirit, unfortunate omissions in our time! On the other hand, three articles touch on dispensationalism (none of them by Ryrie) and three on hermeneutics, two areas of theology which Dallas views as important.

This reviewer commends especially Ryrie's article on "Contrasting Views on Sanctification" and Blue's article emphasizing theological training for all missionaries. Nonetheless, it is tiresome to continue to read of the endorsement of Chafer's explanation of the "filling" of Ephesians 5:18 as not quenching nor grieving the Spirit and walking by Him, an explanation that is application and not exegesis.

Whether or not the reader is attached to Walvoord and to the seminary of which he is president, he will be refreshed and stimulated by the material offered in this book, not least of which is the biographical sketch of Walvoord by Campbell.

---

### **Recent Homiletical Thought: An Annotated Bibliography, Volume 2**

by A. Duane Litfin and  
Haddon W. Robinson, Editors  
Baker Book House  
1983, 249pp., \$16.95

Reviewed by Paul R. Fink  
Professor of Pastoral Ministry  
Liberty Baptist College  
Lynchburg, Virginia

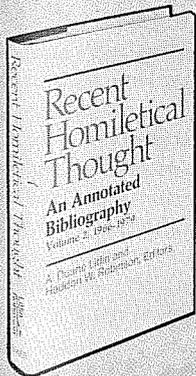
---

In the preface (the most interesting part of the book) the authors review their own work: "Bibliographies have all the excitement of a telephone directory." Such a statement recognizes reality and anticipates a "ho-hum" reception. Litfin and Robinson, however, have taken an important task in hand and have made a very valuable contribution to preachers and preaching.

The authors follow the example of William Toohey and William Thompson who in 1967 issued the first volume of

*Recent Homiletical Thought, 1935-1965.* Like them, Litfin and Robinson have topically arranged their sources in three categories; (1) books, (2) periodical articles, and (3) theses and dissertations.

Annotations are limited to books and periodicals. In keeping with their purpose, the authors only describe the works in their annotations. Buyers of this book would probably be influenced by the names of the authors, both of them professional homileticians: Litfin, associate professor of pastoral ministries, Dallas Theological Seminary; and Robinson, president and professor of homiletics and speech, Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary. These professionals would have been more helpful had they indicated which books, in their opinions, are "essential," so the preacher whose funds are limited could use their book as a guide for acquisitions.

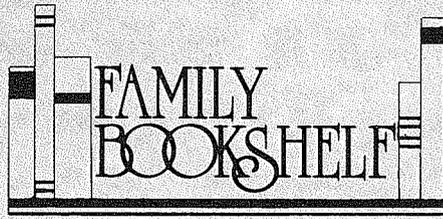


The section on theses and dissertations causes the reader to realize that preaching continues to be the focus of scholarly inquiry, even in secular state colleges and universities. Teachers on the graduate level and advisors for theses and dissertations recognize the inconsistent quality and value of such academic offerings. While their titles are descriptive, an illustrative annotation would enhance their value. But this would be difficult, since only a few copies of each work exist.

The present volume has some decided improvements over the former. The chief one is the added number of periodicals treated—from 36 to over 100. These are listed in an appendix, with addresses. The reader can write for copies of articles not readily available to him otherwise. The authors and personal subjects (i.e.,

persons who are the subjects written about) are keyed in their indexes to consecutive index numbers occurring to the right of each entry in the text. This aids in locating works written about particular individuals, since the author's name alone would not give that information.

This work is helpful for its homiletical focus. Both authors and publisher are to be commended for making it available, though they may find the book's own prophecy self-fulfilling: "Such ventures seldom contribute much to the profit side of the ledger."



**Gennie the Huguenot Woman**  
by *Bette M. Ross*  
Fleming H. Revell Company  
1982, 189pp., \$10.95

This fascinating historical novel of a pious young Huguenot woman who flees the religious persecution of France to take up a new life in Pennsylvania, will be of special interest to anyone who enjoys information about the turbulent early days of our nation.

The setting is 1744-1747, where a movement is afoot in Pennsylvania to recruit a regiment to join the Northern colonies to help the English, who are in open warfare against their rivals, the French in Quebec. The betrothal of Gennie, an indentured servant, to the young Thomas, who joins this regiment, ends in tragic disappointment. During her years of testing, only her deep-rooted faith in her Saviour brings her through a desperately hopeless situation.

The reader will be encouraged by the tremendous courage displayed by this woman, and by her steadfast commitment. This is a tender love story written with historical accuracy, enhanced by an informative map of the

Northern colonies and Canada during the mid-1700s.

--RB

**100% Beyond Mediocrity**  
by *Fred Hartley*  
Fleming H. Revell Company  
1983, 180pp., \$5.95

This is a book I would not hesitate giving a young person searching for a life complete with joy and obedience.

Well written in language of youth, it does not emphasize the "don't's," rather the areas of a Christian's life that need strengthening and that can be brought into harmony with parents, and most of all, with God. I especially liked the chapter on authority—a weak spot in Christian parenting.

A teenager doing the "homework" at the end of each chapter may not happen in every case, but the *Think, Act, Read* instructions could be very helpful, especially the Bible memorization.

--RB

**Whispers of His Power**  
by *Amy Carmichael*  
Fleming H. Revell Company  
1982, 256 pp., \$10.95

Anyone acquainted with the life and writings of Amy Carmichael will not be disappointed in this volume. The same deep devotion to her Lord and commitment to His will and direction will encourage and bless the reader in whatever circumstances he may be. This dear saint, who spent several decades as a missionary in India and in later years was an invalid, imparts in these daily (short) devotional studies some great truths she learned through a lifetime spent living in the presence of her Lord.

--RB

*continued on page 61*