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Christ-Oriented Expository Preaching: Preaching the New Testament Use of the Old Testament

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Abstract

Lee, Kyoochan. *Christ-Oriented Expository Preaching: Preaching the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2020. 186 pages. \$25.00.

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Cover Page Footnote

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The Bible is one book cover to cover, pointing to one person, the person of Jesus. When books are taken out of the context of the whole of Scripture, it can be easy to miss how the New and Old Testaments work together. This is exactly what Kyoochan Lee, in his book *Christ-Oriented Expository Preaching: Preaching the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* is conveying. Lee argues that preachers must be expositors who preach the New Testament in conjunction with the Old.

He makes a compelling argument that preachers ought to follow Jesus' example. He did not preach the gospel of Himself apart from the Old Testament but in conjunction with the Law and the Prophets. He cites Luke 24:27 and Luke 24:44 as his reasoning, "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." And, "Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Therefore, preachers ought to follow Christ's example and not preach the New Testament alone, but New and Old together.

Lee does a fabulous job of not only arguing his case but putting it into practice as well. Lee draws on examples of Christ's preaching and teaching and the preaching and teaching of the early Apostles. All of which did not separate Jesus Christ from the unity of the Old Testament. One can only presuppose then that the New Testament is only meaningful within the context of the Old. Thus, leading the preacher not to disconnect the two but finding a path to connect both in every sermon.

He does this in three parts: Hermeneutical Bridge, Homiletical Model, and Practical Application. Part one, the Hermeneutical Bridge Lee points out that today's preachers have lost this idea that the Old and New Testaments work in unison. Christ can be preached not only by the New Testament but from the Old Testament as well. When the two are combined, the audience receives a much greater understanding. The Bible becomes real and alive because they fit together perfectly even though written hundreds of years apart. They build upon each other and reveal how God worked and continues to work. This is the very work Christ attests to Himself in Scripture.

This is what the New Testament authors were eluding to as they quoted the. "Old Testament in 10 percent of their writings" (35). The disciples, as devoted Jews, understood the Old Testament Scriptures and knew the prophecies of the Messiah. Unfortunately, this is where much of the church and sermons are lacking in understanding the Old Testament. For this reason, Lee says, "the preacher must focus on only one goal: ministering to the people the full counsel of God according to the Bible." (51).

Part two shows that this idea of Old and New Testaments working together in preaching is no more evident than Peter's sermon at Pentecost. Peter

lays out the gospel using prophecies from the Old and combines them with who Jesus is and how He fulfilled them. Lee would analyze and pull from this sermon a seven-step process of using the Old and New Testaments together to preach the gospel. This process will enable the preacher to convey a message of synergy between the Old and New Testaments.

Lee strives to bring about the idea that the whole counsel of Scripture points to Christ. The preacher must draw this out of the text so that he may preach in such a way as to apply to the listeners how to be like Christ. The only way to do this, he says, is through Christocentric expository preaching or preaching Christ from the full of Scripture. Lee gives a model for this type of preaching, which differs from the typical form of preaching. Instead of Explanation, Illustration, Application, he adds in Redemptive History after Explanation.

Lastly, in part three of his book, Lee looks into how this seven-step exposition was applied in the book of Mark. He concludes that when done correctly, the preacher can break through the mysteries of Christ, revealing them to his audience. For this reason, preachers must preach Christocentric sermons using both Old and New Testaments together.

Lee writes this guide to Christ-oriented preaching out of a desire to see God's Word preached as a whole to the fullest. It is an excellent resource for preachers or anyone seeking to grasp how the Old and New Testament work in unison. It will strengthen and develop a well-rounded understanding of how to preach and teach Jesus for who He truly is, the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. *Christ-Oriented Expository Preaching: Preaching the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* is strongly recommended to anyone who desires to preach or teach expository messages from the New Testament using the Old Testament.

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