

saving events, it somehow links us with those events. Kelsey reacts to Tillich: "Why insist that saving events today depend in any way on Jesus? . . . If there is no connection between what is said (with only indirect appeal to scripture) about making human life whole today and what is said (with direct appeal to scripture) about the person of Jesus, then Christology would seem to have become logically dispensable for contemporary Christian theology" (p. 74). And to Bultmann's view that the revelatory, saving event is located in the subjectivity of the man of faith it is countered that Bultmann opens himself to the objection "that he thereby systematically distorts an obvious and central feature of most canonical scripture" (p. 84). Kelsey sees L. Gilkey and P. Ricoeur using scripture in the manner of Tillich.

The second part of this tome deals with the issue of "authority." It is argued that there is no single concept of authority, but that there are rather a number of related but importantly different concepts. Kelsey's proposals concerning scriptural authority for theology involve analyses about the relations among the concepts "church," "tradition," "scripture," and "theology."

This is a rich book. No one can lay it aside without being stimulated in a variety of ways. It is an exposé of neo-orthodox theology's achievements and failures. The most crucial question any reader will ask, if he is eager to transcend the limits of a theology conditioned by modern culture, is, Where do we go from here? That question begs for an answer.

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Kubo, Sakae, and Specht, Walter. *So Many Versions?* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1975. 244 pp. \$5.95/2.95.

With so many new versions of the Bible (over 100 so far this century) confronting the English reader today, a book to aid in their appraisal and selection is especially appropriate. The task of furnishing such an aid is carried out in the present volume with the thoroughness and care that have come to be expected of Kubo and Specht.

In an introductory statement, significant trends in twentieth-century Bible translations are observed. Three are outstanding: (1) Abandonment of the KJV tradition in the "official" Bibles, (2) the almost complete dominance of the use of the best Greek text in the NT, and (3) incorporation of the principles of linguistics. The continued appearance of new translations is said to be necessary because of the discovery of older and better manuscripts, an improved understanding of the original languages, and the constant changes occurring in the English language itself.

Next the authors proceed to their primary purpose of providing a fairly comprehensive and detailed evaluation of 20 or so of the most important English versions. These include the RSV, Phillips', The Modern Language Bible, The Living Bible, The Jerusalem Bible, Today's English Version, The NEB, The New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version, among others. Generally a full chapter is given to each version so that the book reads somewhat like a series of book reviews. Kubo and

Specht do a commendable job of ferreting out the idiosyncracies of each version, and they supply numerous examples to help the reader gain a feeling for the text. Indeed, the quotations cited are sometimes more than adequate, tending to break the flow of thought. Attention is given to such details as grammar, punctuation, format, and chapter divisions. One of the most helpful features is the background information included describing why the the version was prepared and under what circumstances. Both assets and liabilities are observed for each, with the most telling criticism directed against those based on less than the best text (e.g. Knox), or those taking excessive liberties in translation (e.g. The Living Bible). Generally, criticism seems even-handed and justified and is always extended respectfully.

It is not clear to what readership the volume is directed. If for the educated layman, perhaps more attention should have been given to appropriate background information, as for example a brief general history of the English Bible, and also perhaps to the definition of a few somewhat technical terms employed such as "autograph," "Western" text, and "emendation."

A concluding chapter provides specific guidelines for selecting a version. Three primary criteria are proposed and discussed: (1) The underlying text, (2) accuracy in translation, and (3) the quality of the English employed. To the question which version is best, the authors supply this perceptive answer: "Perhaps no one version will be sufficient for today. This may well be an age when multiple versions are needed. If one asks, 'Which version is best?' we need to add the questions, 'Best for whom' and 'Best for what?'" (p. 201).

In addition to a bibliography, an annotated list of twentieth-century English translations arranged in chronological order is supplied in an appendix, further enhancing the value of this already very useful study. Indeed, this is no doubt the best treatment of the subject available today, although almost certainly not the last, for as Kubo and Specht rightly observe, "No translation of the Bible can ever be considered final. Translations must keep pace with the growth in biblical scholarship and the changes in language" (p. 14). Thus new translations will require new evaluations.

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McGavran, Donald. *The Clash between Christianity and Cultures*. Washington, D.C.: Canon, 1974. 83 pp. Paperback, \$1.75.

McGavran has written many books on mission in which he has made outstanding contributions to thinking about mission theory and practice. Years ago he was one of the early writers to advocate that the evangelical goal of individual conversions should be broadened to include the possibility of bringing entire communities to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The scope of his research and writing is amazingly broad and ranges from mission work among primitives to principles of church growth in modern urban communities. At the same time, his outlook is staunchly evangelical; and not infrequently we find him in the thick of the battle, defending the case for