

Though Collins's work reflects much research, students and/or pastors expecting another exegetical or expositional volume will be disappointed, for this is first and foremost a form-analytical handbook.

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Demarest, Gary. *1, 2 Thessalonians, 1, 2 Timothy, Titus*. The Communicator's Commentary, vol. 9. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1984. 333 pp. \$14.95.

The purpose of "The Communicator's Commentary" series is to provide commentaries on the NT that make use of the insights gained from NT scholarship, yet are practical and devotional in nature. The aim is to fill the gap between commentaries whose depth of scholarship makes them useful only to the expert and popular commentaries that do not seriously touch base with the biblical text. Thus, these volumes have the potential to contribute, at a practical level, to a major hermeneutical concern: namely, to bridge the rift that has developed between teaching and preaching, between exegesis and application, and between the study of biblical concerns as opposed to the concerns raised by twentieth-century students of the Bible.

The series editor, Lloyd I. Ogilvie, has attempted to find authors who combine knowledge of the original languages and the current scholarly debate with a pastor's sensitivity to people's needs, who have an ability to discover and use vivid illustrations, and who can express themselves with simplicity and clarity in their use of the English language.

The author of the volume here under review, Gary W. Demarest, would appear to be well qualified for the assignment. During the past two decades he has been the pastor of the La Canada, California, Presbyterian Church; and in addition, he teaches preaching at Fuller Seminary. Thus, he is a "communicator" in both a preaching and a teaching role.

Although Demarest rarely addresses scholarly issues, he does seem to be aware of them. He uses word studies, archaeology, and background information wherever these help him to address what he perceives to be the concerns of his readers.

An example of the general approach used in this commentary may be of interest here. Demarest notes (p. 232) that by "reading between the lines" (a very noble scholarly pursuit these days!), one gets the impression that Timothy was rather shy and retiring, and uncomfortable with the major responsibilities that Paul had placed upon him; and thus there is a helpful message with special appeal to "all of us Timothys who, regularly or periodically, are required to do things beyond our natural desires and

abilities." This commentator's existential concern is further demonstrated by his choice of whimsical titles, such as "God Has No Grandchildren (2 Tim 1:3-5)," "Hanging Up the Spikes (4:6-8)," and "When Everyone Lets You Down (4:14-18)."

Although I personally found much of the material in this commentary to be somewhat superficial, there were some high points that I found greatly rewarding. The author's comments on Onesiphorus (2 Tim 1:15-18) and on the soldier, athlete, and farmer imagery (2:3-7) were enriching and challenging to me personally, and, by themselves, made the time spent in examining this volume well repaid.

Initially, I had considerable concern that the New KJV had been selected as the source for the biblical text. But as I used this volume in an adult Bible class, I felt better about the choice. The KJV is still the version of preference for a large number of churchgoers, and the New KJV retains both the literary beauty of the old English and the basic text of the KJV while modifying the language where it is no longer readily understood. Thus, for the audience of *The Communicator's Commentary* the choice would appear to work quite well, even though the New KJV is not based on the best manuscripts.

Demarest's approach is basically conservative. He accepts Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Epistles, and considers the Bible to be God's inspired word in a very high sense. He appears to be a former dispensationalist who is now open to other approaches to the biblical text. Nevertheless, he is still sympathetic to the dispensationalist approach, and individuals of that persuasion will not find this volume offensive. On the other hand, those who are not comfortable with dispensationalism will find his openness to other perspectives sufficient to appreciate the book, even in his discussion of 2 Thess 2. After all, his main concern is practical Christianity, not theological fine-points.

While this commentary does not reach the heights of Barclay's famed NT commentaries, it does reflect some of the more recent insights of NT scholarship; and I feel that I can recommend it as a valuable addition to the library of any preacher or lay person who wants to be more effective in communicating biblical insights to modern-day Christians.

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Jones, Gwilym H. *1 and 2 Kings*, vol. 1. *The New Century Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984. lii + 300 pp. Paperback, \$7.95.

Following an extensive bibliography of thirty-eight pages, Jones takes up different aspects of technical introduction to the books of Kings. The