

a criticism of Powell, who openly recognizes the silences, some of them extensive. Rather it should remind the reader of how little we actually know and how much we assume. Furthermore, discussion on pre-Greek writing is derivative and often questionable. In this area information is best sought elsewhere.

The price prohibits popular distribution of this book. However, the material on the alphabet within the Greek world recommends the volume to research libraries.

Madison, WI 53713

James E. Miller

Samaan, Phillip G. *Christ's Way of Reaching People*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assoc., 1990. 160 pp. \$9.95.

Because it is tempting for evangelists to be goal-oriented, i.e., focusing on achieving baptismal figures rather than on making mature Christians, or being program centered rather than people-centered, Phillip Samaan's book is must reading for the professional evangelist. Yet it is also an excellent tool for the average Christian who wants to witness simply yet effectively for Christ.

Samaan is Assoc. Prof. of Christian Ministry at the Theological Seminary of Andrews University. His book is based, to a great extent, on his own practice as a pastor-evangelist before coming to the classroom.

Although Samaan doesn't dismiss the need for programs, goals, and methods, he shows clearly that every endeavor must be Christ-centered and people-oriented. It must also follow Christ's method of witnessing in order to be successful.

Samaan bases his understanding of Christ's method on a quotation from the book *"The Ministry of Healing,"* by Ellen G. White, which says that Christ achieved true success in witnessing by mingling with people in order to bless them. He showed sympathy, met their needs and won their confidence and then told them to follow Him (43). Using these six steps as the basis for his book, Samaan takes the pressure from witnessing by focusing on a witnessing which flows naturally from a relationship with Christ to an unconditional friendship with others. Using the metaphor found in II Cor 2:14, 15, "the aroma of Christ," Samaan says that this fragrance given out by Christians will naturally, yet subtly, pervade those around them so as to draw them to Christ. To Samaan this is the Christian's best strategy of infiltrating the world.

Samaan's prerequisite to witnessing as Christ did is to spend time daily with Christ so that Christ will be in us. This is the message of chap. 1.

Samaan could have made his point on following Christ's model more effectively by examining segments of Christ's life where his methods are clearly demonstrated. Although Samaan does allude at times to Christ's encounters with people, he rarely, if ever, offers any in-depth study. More often he alludes to witnessing experiences he himself has experienced. For instance, in the chapter "The Mingling Christ," he uses eight examples from his own experience while only once briefly alluding to the encounter of Jesus with the woman from Samaria. In a book entitled *Christ's Way of Reaching People*, this is a serious omission.

Also missing from the book is an analysis of the way Christ used language to reach people. As Christ mingled with people he familiarized himself with people's lives and was able to use what he had observed to illustrate the truths of the kingdom and to meet people's needs. At least one chapter on this vital aspect of Christ's outreach would have made the book more complete and more true to its title.

At times the chapter titles are deceptive. For example, the chapter entitled "Christ Can Be Trusted," is mainly about how we can win people's trust rather than about trusting Christ. The chapter, "Christ the Answer to Our Needs," is more about ministering to people's needs than Christ as the answer.

In spite of these negative comments, Samaan's sincerity cannot be doubted. Furthermore, his encouragement to witness as Christ did bears repetition.

Berrien Springs, MI 49104

CARL FLETCHER

Schneemelcher, Wilhelm, ed. *New Testament Apocrypha*. Vol 1, *Gospels and Related Writings*. Rev. ed. English translation edited by R. McL. Wilson. Cambridge: James Clarke & Co.; and Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991. 544 pp. \$29.95.

To fully appreciate the contents of this volume one has to look at them alongside the previous editions. What we have is not simply a revised version of the old *Neutestamentliche Apokryphen*, but a completely new recasting of the third German edition begun by E. Hennecke and completed by W. Schneemelcher in 1959. Some of the recent discoveries from the Nag Hammadi Library were accounted for in that edition, yet without providing the complete texts. This was remedied in the last decade with the fifth and sixth German editions which also introduce the reader to the ever-increasing literature devoted to these apocryphal writings. It is from these last German editions that the present English translation is made by R. McL. Wilson, who had earlier translated into English the two volumes of the third German edition, published in 1963 and 1965