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Book Review of Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study by Frederick W. Danker

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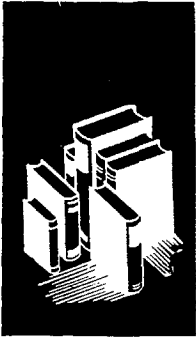
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BOOKS

***Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*, Frederick W. Danker, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960, 289 pages.**

The minister must have a broad perspective and his library must reflect this but he cannot slight the study of the Bible in depth if he is to continue as a preacher of the Word. To make sure that the pastor and seminarian secure the right tools for this purpose, Professor Danker has written this book. He serves as a competent as well as an interesting guide in directing us to the necessary tools for the study of the Bible. The names of the best and most up-to-date concordances, Bibles (Greek and Hebrew), grammars and lexicons, dictionaries and encyclopedias, Bible translations, commentaries, as well as Jewish literature relating to the New Testament and books on archeology, including the Dead Sea scrolls are all included in this volume.

The significant feature about this book is the fact that it is more than a select list of books with annotations. The most valuable sections are those dealing with the use of these tools. With specific examples, Danker illustrates how one can get the most out of them. Some most suggestive theological ideas are found here.

Danker also includes a brief history of these tools in each section, and some interesting tidbits of information are located here, such as the fact that in 1781 the president of Yale, Ezra Stiles, delivered his commencement address in Hebrew!

A very valuable and helpful chapter dealing with the Nestle Greek Testament and its abundant helps is included. In this section Danker draws out all that the Nestle text can offer to the discerning student.

In a future edition the author will probably want to include a chapter on the Greek New Testament, its history and available resources, especially now since the publication of the American Bible Society text. The chapter on Nestle will serve as an excellent supplement to this. This will correspond with his chapters on the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek Old Testament. Chapters dealing with textual criticism and introduction would also be helpful.

Since the author is also writing with the research student in mind, the reader should be warned that some materials included in the volume may be a bit too heavy for him; nevertheless there is abundant material for everyone.

The reader also must keep in mind that up-to-date can only mean up to the time of publication. This means that he will always inquire whether something later and better has appeared since the book was written. Apparently the English translation of Kittel's *Theologisches Wörterbuch* has made it less urgent for the student to learn German (cf. p. 127). Some other notable publications since the book was published are *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, the American Bible Society Greek Text mentioned above, *The New English Bible*, and the Jerusalem Bible to mention only a few. Fortunately, however, tools of the nature discussed by Danker do not easily go out of date.

The seminarian, pastor, and research student can all profit from the use of this volume.

SAKAE KUBO

***Meditations on Ephesians*, Leonard T. Wolcott, Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tennessee.**

This is a verse-by-verse devotional commentary on the book of Ephesians, choosing a particular verse for each day, following it with a meditation of inspiration and guidance. A short prayer, appropriate to the text, is also given. The author feels that we today have the same human needs, problems, and responses that the people had at the time the book of Ephesians was written. And although we may use new words drawn from sociology and psychology to express these needs, problems, and responses, the experiences are the same. The counsel, guidance, and inspiration that came from the pen of Paul to the church at Ephesus have rich meaning for us today.

ANDREW FEARING

***The Christian Persuader*, Leighton Ford, Harper & Row, New York, \$3.95, 159 pages.**

Leighton Ford has presented us with a most cheering and appealing approach to evangelism in a time when many think that the day of the public evangelistic campaign is over. It is hard to understand how any minister can remain unmoved by his fervent appeal to proclaim the gospel with great urgency and meaning to the people of this generation. His firm belief that the gospel has lost none of its meaning and is the vital need of the world today is something that every Christian should believe and seek to share.

Any doubt as to the relevancy of the gospel for our time would certainly be dispelled by a prayerful reading of such chapters as "The Recovery of Urgency" and "By All Means Save Some." He points out two great dangers that we face in our world today as we seek to proclaim the gospel. One is to change the message and the other is to refuse to change the methods. We commend this book to all the ministers of the church and to all others who are really concerned about the finishing of God's work in the earth.

N. R. DOWER

Support the church. You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead.