

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Faculty Publications

2-1-1971

Book Review of The Crisis of Piety: Essays Toward a Theology of the Christian Life by Donald G. Bloesch

Sakae Kubo
Andrews University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>

Recommended Citation

Kubo, Sakae, "Book Review of The Crisis of Piety: Essays Toward a Theology of the Christian Life by Donald G. Bloesch" (1971). *Faculty Publications*. 4064.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/4064>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. . . . The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 113, 114.

"Revelation is the crown jewel of Biblical prophecy." It contains a special message for our generation. Are we, as ministers of the gospel, helping our people to understand God's message for this hour? Why not give a series of Sunday- or Wednesday-night sermons on "Things to Come"? A verse-by-verse study of the Apocalypse is top copy.

CHARLES MELLOR

HEZEKIAH'S WATER TUNNEL

Hezekiah's Water Tunnel is a twenty-seven and one-half minute 16mm color film of Hezekiah's epic defense of Jerusalem against the invasion of Sennacherib in 701 B.C. The moving story of the 1,777 foot tunnel that he dug, including the recent discovery of his own account of the project, together with the Assyrian account of the invasion, is a striking example of archeological illumination of the Bible.

The story is related by Dr. Frank Baxter, known to millions through the national telecasts of the Bell Telephone Science Series.

As a special feature in connection with evangelistic meetings, the film will not only fascinate the audience, but it will inspire confidence in the Scriptures.

For a descriptive folder and further information write to:

H. J. Thomsen
31-11 77th Street
Jackson Heights, New York 11370.

CHURCH SIGNBOARDS

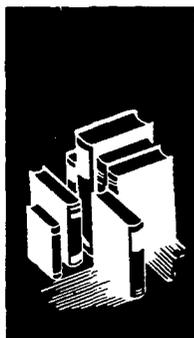
On my way to work I pass a church with a large signboard near the highway. Instead of a long list of weekly services, name and address of pastor, and other details, it has a seed thought for the reader to contemplate. Each week brings a fresh thought. I look for the thought and meditate upon it, and every time I pass the sign, the image of that church continues to grow positively in my mind. In fact, I have been tempted to go visit this church some Sunday morning. I haven't taken a poll, but I am positive thousands of other motorists have been helped by the pointed expressions designed to make life worth living.

One recent statement declared, "The Competition Is Terrific but We Are Still Open on Sundays."

Why not assign some good, thoughtful church member to put a catchy motto or statement on your billboard every week? It probably would do a lot more good than a list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, et cetera. Maybe we ought to start a nationwide campaign where all Seventh-day Adventist

churches use the same statement each month. The MINISTRY could provide a monthly list of maxims, proverbs, or adages. What do you think?

J. R. S.



BOOKS

The Crisis of Piety: Essays Towards a Theology of the Christian Life, Donald G. Bloesch, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1968, \$3.50.

The author, professor of theology at Dubuque Theological Seminary, writes with deep conviction about the need for spiritual renewal in the church today. He calls for a theology of spiritual life which while it includes service in the world must be nourished by a deep spiritual and devotional experience. While what he calls for is not new, it is quite different and opposed to the tendencies in modern theology. The basic weakness that he sees in modern theology is the lack of the transcendent perspective and its tendency towards mere humanitarianism. This leads also to a failure in recognizing the demonic character of the world, and thus identifies the secular with the sacred.

Adventists will be interested also in two other points of emphasis. One is the need of discipline in the Christian life. Like Bonhoeffer, he attacks cheap grace, i.e., "the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, and communion without confession" (page 64). While guarding against Pharisaic legalism and perfectionism, he suggests the following types of discipline: prayer, meditation, study of the truths of the faith, family devotions, simplicity, fasting, chastity, abstinence from tobacco, Sabbath rest, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and tithing. The need of obedience is stressed. "Indeed," he says, "salvation cannot be said to have occurred apart from the obedience of faith" (page 131). The Christian must be "world-concerned as well as God-centered" (page 132).

The other point of emphasis while not dominant is assumed throughout and pervades the entire book. That is a radically futuristic eschatology.

While the book is somewhat repetitious, there is much of value in it from which Adventist ministers can learn.

~ SAKAE KUBO