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### Reommended Reading: Light in the Darkness: Studies in the Gospel of John

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# recommended reading

**LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**, Homer A. Kent, Jr., Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1974, 239 pages, cloth—\$3.95, paperback—\$2.95.

**THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS: A COMMENTARY**, Homer A. Kent, Jr., Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1972, 302 pages, \$5.95.

The author of these commentaries is dean and professor of New Testament and Greek at Grace Theological Seminary. He reflects the conservative viewpoint, shows acquaintance with the literature in English, and writes simply and clearly, directing his works to a wide readership. Kent comments on the English text paragraph by paragraph, sacrificing detailed exegesis for a more synthetic treatment. The commentary on John is especially useful for group use, with questions for discussion at the end of each chapter. However, for more serious study of John we have a wealth of recent commentaries. These include those by C. K. Barrett, Raymond Brown (*Anchor Bible*), R. Bultmann, B. Lindars (*New Century Bible*), L. Morris (*New International Commentary*), J. N. Sanders (*Harper's NT Commentaries*), R. Schnackenburg (*Herder's Theological Commentary on the NT*). Morris' commentary is written from a conservative viewpoint, but much can be gained from the others even when the liberal aspects are discounted. Two useful expositions of John are those by James Boice and Walter Lüthi. Though not recent, Westcott's commentary is still very useful. While not as detailed as those above, the commentaries by Marsh, Fenton, Filson, Richardson, Tasker, and Tenney could be used with profit.

For the book of Hebrews, good commentaries are not as plentiful.

One of the best, also written by a conservative scholar, is that of F. F. Bruce (*New International Commentary*). Other recent commentaries include those by G. W. Buchanan (*Anchor Bible*), J. H. Davies (*Cambridge Bible Commentary*), Thomas Hewitt (Tyn-dale), Hugh Montefiore (*Harper's NT Commentaries*), William Neil (*Torch Bible Commentary*), and Jean Hering. Older but still very useful commentaries are those by Westcott and Moffatt (*International Critical Commentary*).

Walter Specht

**A LITTLE BALM AND A LITTLE HONEY**, Ivy Duffy Doherty, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C., 1977, 64 pages, \$1.50.

It is a rare and pleasant thing to find an author who is able to take the common occurrences of life—the flat tire, run-in-with-the-neighbors sort of things—and draw from them lessons so lovely that they almost seem unworthy of a rarer source. Ivy Duffy Doherty's newest book, *A Little Balm and a Little Honey*, is actually a book of parables. The morals and lessons come so easily and are so appropriate that the volume is truly a thing of beauty. It impressed this reader as something similar to the experience of watching a championship tennis match. There is much running, jumping, and swinging—ordinary activities all—but when performed by a professional they all come together in a lilting symphony that leaves the observer satisfied.

This book is for relaxing and inspirational reading. There are homely vignettes that could well grace many a sermon, and stories to appeal to various ages and intellects.

Bobbie Jane Van Dolson

**LAODICEA: THE CHURCH THAT DOESN'T KNOW**, Thomas A. Davis, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C., 1976, 95 pages, \$2.95.

That the Laodicean message of Revelation 3 has special significance for the church today is generally recognized. In fact, it bears "the solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs" (*Early Writings*, p. 270). This makes it extremely important. This being so, the ministry of this church will welcome that which will give clearer understanding to the vital message contained therein. In looking for such help, they will not be disappointed in this practical study by Thomas Davis.

The author, as an associate book editor of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, writes from a rich background of years of service in mission lands, as well as in America. He is a diligent student of the Spirit of Prophecy and in this volume brings the inspired comments to bear on the Biblical passages under consideration.

Following an introduction that underscores the application of the message to the church today, the author moves through Revelation 3:14-22 with careful analysis of each phrase or sentence, and with practical application. The work is organized into short sections or chapters, usually not more than two or three pages in length.

Pastors will find it useful as a basis for a series of prayer-meeting studies. Members will also find it ideal for daily devotional reading. The preaching of the Laodicean message and its study by the members of our churches is vital as we pray for the revival and reformation that we know must come before the task entrusted to us can be finished. This volume may help to serve as a catalyst to bring it into great prominence.

Orley Berg