

menschliche Sünde und Auferweckt werden durch den Zuspruch der Vergebung. In solcher Umkehr allein kommt es zu einer inneren Veränderung, die dann auch wirklich weltverändernde Folgen hat, die nicht nur menschliche Träume realisiert, sondern Zeichen der in Christus gegenwärtigen Herrschaft Gottes setzt.

Helmut Burkhardt

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Entering the Darkness: Christianity and its Modern Substitutes

Edward Norman

SPCK, London, 1991, 106pp., £6.99,
ISBN 0-281-04537-2

RÉSUMÉ

Critique aigüe des tendances courantes dans l'Eglise; affirme qu'un christianisme non-doctrinal et individualiste détruit la cohésion de la communauté chrétienne.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Eine tiefgehende Kritik der gegenwärtigen Entwicklungen innerhalb der Kirche, in der behauptet wird, daß ein individualistisches und von der Lehre losgelöstes Christentum den Zusammenhalt der christlichen Gemeinschaft zerstört.

Edward Norman's book is an incisive critique of trends in the Church which are leading the people of God away from their primary concerns and responsibilities. He points out how deep secularisation has been, and how readily Christians have accepted the morality and priorities of the world. The traditional picture of a heaven for the few and a hell for the many who have refused to renounce worldly passions and desires has given way to a sanctified hedonism which privatises heaven, and allows everyone to imagine that he will go there regardless. The modern Church is a body unaware of the importance of doctrine, and without any clearly formulated teaching which could apply it to the concerns of today. Spiritual formation has become a matter for individual choice, and variety has been exalted as the way forward to true liberation. The fact that it has also produced the effective dissolution of a coherent Christian community is glossed over in

silence. His book may be dismissed by Church leaders today, but future ages may look back to it as a lone voice of truth in a voluble but essentially barren age.

Gerald Bray

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***The Old Testament in Early Christianity*
E. Earle Ellis**

J.C.B. Mohr, Tübingen, 1991, 188p., Dm 78
(Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum
Neuen Testament 54)

RÉSUMÉ

Exposé précieux de l'emploi de l'Ancien Testament dans le Nouveau; explique comment les auteurs du Nouveau Testament différaient de leurs contemporains juifs, et comment leur approche christocentrique les obligea à faire grand usage de la typologie.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Eine wertvolle Darstellung des Gebrauches des AT im NT in der erklärt wird, wie sich die Verfasser des NT von ihren jüdischen Zeitgenossen unterscheiden und wie ihr christozentrischer Ansatz sie dazu verpflichtete, von der Typologie reichlich Gebrauch zu machen.

Dr. Ellis has given us a short but extremely valuable account of the way in which the OT is used in the NT, based largely on his extensive research into contemporary Judaism. He makes good use of the Qumran material to demonstrate how closely Jesus and his immediate followers adhered to standard Jewish notions of the OT canon, and the ways in which it could and should be understood. He demonstrates that the big difference between Christians and other Jews was that the former placed Jesus Christ at the centre of their hermeneutic. This in turn caused a shift in perspective which had serious eschatological implications. It also ensured that the NT writers would make considerable use of typology in their interpretation of the OT, and Dr. Ellis is concerned to demonstrate the relevance of this for the life of the Church in modern times as well as in the first century. In a study which is always cautious, always thorough and always conservative in its conclusions, he urges us to take NT interpretation of the OT as the basis for