

The Second Letter to the Corinthians, by Mark A. Seifrid. The Pillar New Testament Commentary, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. xxxiv + 535 pp. ISBN 978-0-8028-3739-4. Hardcover, US\$50.00.

Mark Seifrid is a highly respected NT scholar who specializes in the Pauline epistles with a particular emphasis upon justification by faith. In this latest installment his Lutheran assumptions are easily discernible creating fresh biblical insights within a traditional Protestant framework.

The book gives a concise yet comprehensive introduction that is divided into four main sections. The first section connects the canonical Corinthian correspondence both historically and theologically. Seifrid next highlights the fact that 1 Corinthians best complements 2 Corinthians. The second section offers a brief introduction to Paul's opponents in Corinth. Seifrid examines this issue more specifically in his commentary of 2 Cor 3. The third section deals with the literary integrity of the letter. The author parts company with other significant commentators about the literary unity of the letter. "The incoherence or inconcinnity of arguments that one might find in the letter is more apparent than real" (p. xxx). The last section of the introduction summarizes the main theological approaches to the letter. Seifrid argues that the best way to understand 2 Corinthians is from an ecclesiological and missiological perspective of the apostle Paul.

Seifrid develops this ecclesiological and missiological approach as the main thrust of this volume. The commentary is organized into three basic sections. The first section (1:1-2:17) highlights the importance of the call and ministry of the apostle. The second section (3:1-7:16) expands both the experience and the practice of the apostolic mission. The final section (8:1-13:14) describes the spiritual characteristics, meekness, and simplicity of the true apostles.

Two main strengths distinguish this book from the majority of other commentaries on 2 Corinthians. The most obvious is the solid theological arguments that the author develops. He skillfully weaves both English and German sources, as well as a wide range of authors spanning from the early church to the present. He views the letter as a single literary and theological unit. A second and related strength of this commentary is that it emphasizes the Jewish background of Pauline thought and rhetoric. This particular idea, however, is not unique to Protestant theology in general as it has already been explored in the areas of the church and the new Israel, the importance of the gospel and the new covenant over the law, and the old covenant. Unfortunately, one could wish that the same theological emphasis could be better represented in some of the exegetical and textual analyses of the letter. Thus, this is a rich theological commentary that should be supplemented by other technical exegetical commentaries. The book will

be a valuable resource for theologians investigating particular biblical issues. It is an essential resource for any theological library.

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Accordance Review, version 11, by OakTree Software, Inc., 2014-2015. US\$49.90-59.90. Anchor Yale Bible Commentaries: Old Testament and Apocrypha US\$999.00 and New Testament US\$599.00.

In the fall of 2014 Oak Tree Software launched the newest update to their renowned Bible software. Accordance version 11 builds on the successful version 10 by adding helpful features to the existing program: Quick entry, info pane, increased customization, and user tools.

Accordance's software is well known for its speed, as well as user-friendly approach. Indeed the software exhibits a single entry pane that allows the user to search the selected database with ease. In contrast, the producers of other Bible software solutions have up to 13 different entry fields with varying search syntax and features. In version 11, Accordance expanded the single entry line to include a new feature labeled "quick entry." Similar to the search field found in a web search, the software offers the user a drop-down list of suggested entries based upon the typed letters. Despite the apparent similarity, the "quick entry" by Accordance is more powerful than that of other popular search engines due to the flex-search functionality, transferal of an English entry into Biblical languages, and suggestions for alternate spelling. Based on the flex search capability in Biblical databases, introduced in version 10, the software presents both the applicable Bible book and a list of relevant words after entering a few letters. This quick-entry feature is especially useful when searching for words in a Biblical language in a corresponding module. The software recognizes English letters and searches for the Greek/Hebrew/Aramaic equivalent. For example, the English entry of "mar" in the NA28 module results in the suggestion of the Bible book "Mark," as well as an exhaustive list of Greek words beginning with these letters along with a one or two word definition such as "Μάρθα Martha." Additionally, the suggestions of similar spelled words is particularly useful as users can easily misspell a word in a Biblical language if the transliteration of letters from English to the Biblical language is not fully memorized. Akin to searches on the web, the user can press "enter" or scroll to any item in the drop-down list using their mouse