

Abiding in Christ. By James E. Rosscup. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. 254 pp. \$5.95.

This is a major work on John 15:1-6 by the associate professor of Bible at Talbot Seminary. It skillfully combines devotional and theological insights to its basically exegetical approach, and while it is detailed and thorough, no intelligent reader will have difficulty following its discussions.

Especially helpful were the chapters (7-10) which discuss the meaning of fruit and the relation of fruit and good works. Equally good is the discussion of the place of human effort in bearing fruit (chapter 13).

The author takes the position that vv. 2a and 6 speak of professing people, not believers. The evidence which he marshals is overwhelming but will not be convincing to all. For example, "in me" of v. 2a is taken to mean a relationship like unbelieving Jews had in O. T. times as members of the covenant community; and the "taking away," though ultimately referring to the final judgment of the unsaved, also includes excommunication from the local church fellowship. Verse 6 is an elaboration of this idea, according to the author.

To sum up: a significant, careful, and well-written study of an important passage.

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