

The Christian Life

"Balancing the Christian Life". By Charles Caldwell Ryrie. Published by Moody Press. 191 pp. U.S. price \$3.95.

Griffith Thomas once wrote that Evan Hopkins' book, "The Law of Liberty in the Spiritual Life", was by far the best book available on the subject of holiness. But if he were alive today he may have to revise that opinion, because a superb book on the Christian Life has appeared.

Professor Ryrie, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, is Dean of Doctoral Studies and Professor of Systematic Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary.

A pleasing feature of the book is the way in which the author constantly draws out the practical implications of the doctrines he teaches. On this subject Ryrie writes, "My invariable reaction to the chapel speaker who begins his message something like this: 'Now today, young people, I'm going to be very practical in my message. I'll leave the doctrine to your teachers and the classroom — I just want to be practical' — by this time I have already tuned the speaker out, for he has made a fundamental mistake in disjoining doctrine and practice." (p.66)

Some very down-to-earth matters get a thorough treatment. Such as, "Using your Gifts", "Routine Faithfulness", and "Money And The Love Of God". In relation to tithing not all will agree with the author when he states, "If someone felt after prayer that the right proportion for him should be 10 per cent., I would suggest that he give 9 or 11 per cent. to keep out of the 10 per cent. rut. A person who is giving 9 or 11 per cent. will find himself much more sensitive to the Lord's changing his proportion than if he were giving 10 per cent." (P. 89).

In a work written on the subject of balance in the Christian Life one would expect some attention to be given to unbalanced teaching, and such is the case. For example, the false emphasis that in sanctification man's will and faculties are passive receives a scriptural correction. He writes, "There is a kind of quietism abroad which rules out any activity on man's part as being 'of the flesh' . . . The Scripture does say very plainly that I am to do certain things that are a vital part of sanctification" (P. 64).

Dedication is dealt with, and is seen to be a once and for all crisis act covering "all the years of one's life" (based on the use of the aorist tense in Romans 6:13 and 12:1-2), and, when the dedication

jects are, "What is Spirituality?", "United with Christ", "The Wiles of the Devil", "Confessing and Forgiving", "Must Christ be Lord to be Saviour?" (the author says no); and "Should I Seek to Speak in Tongues?".

Throughout this book, in which profound themes are dealt with in simple, lucid English, a high standard of exposition is maintained, and the reader will find himself challenged and built up in the faith.

—K. A.

Middle East

"Middle East Cauldron", by F. A. Tatford and John McNicol. 88 pp. and 5 appendices. "Prophetic Witness" Publ.

Good value sometimes comes in small parcels. So with this useful paperback in its colourful jacket published early this year by the Prophetic Witness Publishing House, Parsonage House, Parsonage Rd., Eastbourne, Sussex, England, for 10/.

Dr. F. A. Tatford, well-known for his interest in prophetic studies, including his well-balanced book on Daniel, and John McNicol, a Scottish archaeologist, have made many visits to Palestine over the last 20 years. They claim the dispassionate viewpoint of "hardened journalists" in a book that "will disturb and shock".

Certainly here is no rosy-hued picture of modern Israel, too easily accepted by those seeing prophecy fulfilled in the return of the Jews to Palestine. The boot is on the other foot.

Indications of 40,000 living in poverty in Jerusalem, of Arabs imprisoned and tortured, evidence of drug-traffic and prostitution, do not make cheerful propaganda.

The Israelis are featured as "proudly arrogant and irreligious", and Israel in essence "an atheistic state". They have religious services and festivals, but have forgotten, so far as the Arab refugees are concerned, the Bible maxim to "love the stranger".

Freedom of religious worship does not give right of propagation, proselytising or conversion—with penalties in some cases of six months imprisonment.

Very useful chapters are devoted to the Arab situation, to the Israeli religious (or non-religious) outlook. "The Messiah is a symbol, not a person." "I am not looking for any Messiah," they were told by David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, still very alert at 85.

Full details of recent history, up-to-date statistics, maps, and much other material provide a sobering study of the seething Middle East, and an invaluable book of handy and accurate reference.

—J.H.K.

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BALANCING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE- Ryrie

A good, reliable hardback now in paperback. The author deals with major doctrines of the Christian faith, relating them to the spiritual life of the believer. It is recognized as biblically sound and has already been widely used as a text in Christian colleges, as a foundational study for Christian living.

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