

NEO-ORTHODOXY, An Evangelical Evaluation of Barthianism, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie, 8th printing, 1966, Moody Press Chicago, \$1.05. Christian Forum Books.

A very lucid and clear treatise on the 'difficult' issue of dialectical theology and (or!) philosophy. Dr. Ryrie "describes the historical and theological background from which Barthianism arose, and evaluates the views of Barth, Brunner and Niebuhr in the light of scriptural revelation. He summarizes the neo-orthodox doctrines of God, man, salvation, and the Bible, concluding with a critique of its internal inconsistencies and its divergencies from Reformation principles."

The purpose of this booklet (64 pages) is "to show as simply as possible something of the system and its errors."

In our opinion Dr. Ryrie succeeded very well. He writes in such a way that the average interested christian can understand him. The rejection of Barthianism is founded on the Word of God. We warmly recommend it without reserve.

Canadian Reformed Mag. June 11, '66 v.D.

NEO-ORTHODOXY, by Charles C. Ryrie. Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. Paper, 64 pp. 95c. Reviewed by the Rev. Archie W. Jones, pastor, Meadowview Presbyterian Church, Lexington, N. C.

The dean of Dallas Theological Seminary, has given what I believe to be an answer, to the conservative layman who has been asking, "What has happened to the faith of our fathers?"

In this book the theology of Barth, Brunner and Niebuhr are discussed and believed to be the source of neo-orthodoxy, a system which must be something very good or terribly deceiving and we must know which. Difficult language is avoided to reveal to every reader something of the system and its errors.

The author calls attention to its birth and growth. Neo-orthodoxy was born after two world wars when man was seeking something new, therefore: "in the darkness of the time it came, it was like a light in a blackout." Its words are many, soothing and confusing.

From reading *Neo-orthodoxy*, one will be reminded that the Reformed doctrine must be one that is God-centered — not man; that the Bible is the Word of God — not that it becomes the word; the cross is to be preached — but not without the blood; and that Salvation is for all — but only those who believe are saved.

If one is looking for enlightenment concerning world and Church apostasy, I suggest this book for he will find help and encouragement from an author who believes that our God is still the same yesterday, today and forever. ☩

Presbyterian Journal
SEPT. 7, 1966

NEO-ORTHODOXY, by Charles C. Ryrie (Moody Press, Chicago, 64 pages paperback, 95 cents)

Agitating the theological world today is the controversial movement called neo-orthodoxy. Basically, this is a reaction to the extreme liberalism of the early decades of this century and to the extreme liberalism of certain theologians today. It is an attempt to go back to the Bible for valuable religious insights, but to retain a "modern" outlook on life and skeptical attitude toward the complete inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. Dr. Ryrie has written a concise study of this movement—its leaders, ideas, and influence. He shows clearly the errors and weaknesses of neo-orthodoxy and what must be done to counteract its subtle dangers. *Restitution Herald - 2/28/66*

6-1966
NEO-ORTHODOXY by Charles Caldwell Ryrie. 64 pages; paper; Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. \$.95. Often known as "Barthianism," or "Crisis Theology," this teaching erroneously has been considered a return to the faith because of the emphasis placed upon the sovereignty of God and the sinfulness of man. The author points out, "The system must either be something very good or terribly deceiving, and we know which." Dr. Ryrie avoids difficult language, revealing the subtle and insidious method by which these teachings have been put forth to the Christian public. He carefully deals with all of the various subjects, including the teachings of, such men as Barth, Brunner and Niebuhr. *Kings Business*

Neo-Orthodoxy, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie (Moody Press, Chicago, 1966, 64 pages, 95c) is a brief, simplified description of the background and nature of this theological system. Because it is written in readable form, it will not satisfy those who delight in six-syllable words, but it is an accurate, concise evaluation. We recommend it.

THE BAPTIST BULLETIN
Miss. Missions - Cleveland
Aug. 1966

NEO-ORTHODOXY
An evangelical evaluation of Barthianism
by Charles Caldwell Ryrie
Moody Press; 95c
Paper cover; 64 pages

In the face of the continual controversy with which the average layman is being confronted in the present generation, we believe that the reprint of this book is timely. Written first in 1956, it has been revised and placed in its present format.

This book has answered a need that has been apparent for many months, namely the answer to the current questions concerning theological terminology, and the way in which it can be understood.

Dr. Ryrie in his chapter on "Names, Values, Cautions" clearly suggests that "Neo-orthodoxy is but another name for Barthianism." From this, he defends his position, and clearly shows exactly why he holds this position.

We would recommend this book to every teacher and layman in the church. It will help to define words, and help you to know much more about the current theological attack upon the Word of God under all kinds of names.

The book actually summarizes the neo-orthodox position on the doctrines of God, man, salvation and the Bible.

The Brethren Missionary Herald Co.
Box 544
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↓ Neo-Orthodoxy, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie (Moody Press, 1956, 64 pp., 95c, paperback), reviewed by Edgar C. James, associate professor of theology.

Although relatively short by some standards, this layman's approach to neo-orthodoxy comes to grips with the core of this well-known system that has plagued Christians for many years. The author, a scholar in his own right, carefully examines this area of contemporary theology. He deals with the men involved, their viewpoints, and what they believe about various doctrines of the Word of God. His conclusion is that "neo-orthodoxy is a theological hoax. It pretends to preserve the message of the Bible while denying the facts of the Bible" (p. 62). For those who want one of the best evaluations of neo-orthodoxy from a solid evangelical viewpoint, this book is highly recommended.

Calvary Review July - Aug. 1966

Neo-Orthodoxy, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Moody Press, of Chicago, Revised 1966, 64 pages, Price \$.95.

The task which Dr. Ryrie undertook when he set out to write this book on neo-orthodoxy was a great one. When one views the nebulous and often divergent views of those within the so-called neo-orthodox camp, the difficulty of such a task is readily perceived. Particularly is this true when it comes to writing a concise, yet accurate critical analysis of this school of thought. The danger of oversimplification is great and the reader can easily be left with an illusory pattern of half truths in his mind.

Ryrie begins with a definition of some of the terms often employed and seeks to arrive at a proper value for each. He then continues by discussing the three leading neo-orthodox theologians (Barth, Brunner, Niebuhr) and some of their views, particularly in relationship to God, the Word, and the nature of man. God and angels, man and salvation, the church and future things, and the Bible then follow as the topics of discussion.

The purpose of this book is to provide the layman with a source which shows as simply as possible something of the system of neo-orthodoxy. Avoiding difficult language, the author reveals many of the fallacies of neo-orthodoxy which are so subtle that they are extremely difficult to detect. The author seeks to point out ways of detecting the errors of the system.

*Faith and Fellowship
Lutheran Seminary
Fergus Falls, Minn.
356537*

While there are several things which make this book commendable, there are some things which hinder its effectiveness. One of the most glaring shortcomings of this book is its lack of documentation. When one reads a book which attempts to reveal the fallacies of a theological system, one would expect to find an excellent bibliography of source material which had been carefully examined as well as footnotes which would document the statements made in the text. There are a few footnotes but not nearly enough. At times it is hard to know whether the author is quoting someone's view or just saying what he thinks someone's view has been. And there is no way of

checking since most of the author's assertions aren't based on any listed source, although research must have gone into the preparation of this volume and a bibliography used even though it is not listed.

Dr. Ryrie does have a real burden for evangelicalism and this seems to be perhaps the motivation behind the writing of this book. Dr. Ryrie definitely takes a stand of no compromise over and against those who get excited with neo-orthodoxy and its call to the Word of God. He perceives that the main fallacy of this theological system is that this call to the Word of God is a call to the faith of the Word, not the facts of the Word which to the neo-ortho-

guff which lies between the fundamentalists and the so-called neo-orthodox. And while the terminology may be the same, the meanings attached to these words and phrases are different. Of this the book warns.

While there may be shortcomings in documentation, which should have been remedied in this revised edition, this book is capable of giving a rapid view of neo-orthodoxy as a system, even though it would not be a recommended source for a research project in Barthian or neo-orthodox theology. —Dave Rinden

BOOK EVALUATION FOR MENNONITE PUBLISHING HOUSE

PLEASE CHECK!



- Approved
- Modified Approved
- Qualified Rejected
- Rejected

Title of Book Neo-Orthodoxy
 Author Charles Caldwell Ryrie
 Illustrator (if any) _____
 Publisher Moody Press
 Year Published 1956 - 1966 Pages 64
 Binding and Price Date this review March 25, 1966
 Cloth _____
 Paper .45 Reviewer Nelson E. Kauffman

REC'D
 APR - 7 1966 - 3 PM

This book for:

- Adults Pastors
- Youth Students
- Age range for children's book

Description and Evaluation of Book (See explanation on reverse side.)

There is no doubt about the differences between the Neo-orthodoxy and the so called orthodox or "fundamentalist" theological formulations. The author points out the inconsistency of the Neo-orthodox position. Yet he also says "Doctrinally, the concept (of salvation) Neo-orthodox concept, lacks many essentials and cannot be called orthodox; practically, it may contain enough truth to bring salvation to some - God knows" p. 41, but then he also says that "Evangelicals must never forget that Neo-orthodoxy has just as openly taken its stand against what it considers the errors of conservatism as it has against the errors of liberalism. It is just as sure that the conservatives have misconstrued the Bible as it is that the liberals have."

The author does not indicate that the fundamentalists also have unsolved problems in their interpretations, for instance he fails to tell how the conservatives evaluate certain passages under question. One could wish that the problems the Conservatives have could also have been referred to.

This is a simply written book. It is helpful to the informed person, but to the person who knows very little about the real issues, this volume could conceivably make him feel he is now an authority because he has read one book and so the cause for truth is not helped much. One could only wish that there were some conservative scholars who could do as much to simulate Bible study and relate its truth to present day issues as Barth has. One could also wish there were more face to face conversation between the Conservatives and Neo-orthodox, so that what truth they have presented could be a real contribution to all true Christians today.

For church libraries

- Excellent
- Good
- Acceptable
- Of little value

How should this book be promoted?

- Widely, all channels (advertising, catalogs, bookstands, etc.)
- List in catalog
- Stock in bookstores
- No special promotion

Should this book be reviewed in one of our MPH periodicals? Please indicate which one:

- Gospel Herald
- Christian Living
- Builder
- YCC

If you feel a longer review is needed for publication please send it with this evaluation sheet.