

App. Dispensationalism Today. Charles Caldwell Ryrie. Moody, 1965. 221pp. Cloth \$3.95.

In this book Ryrie meets the question of dispensationalism. One has no difficulty in knowing what the author believes. The book clarifies and defines the word, and his use of Scripture gives a clear and sharp explanation. Since dispensation and stewardship are derived from the same word it becomes helpful in understanding the stewardship emphasis.

In the last chapter the author makes a plea for integrity. He states that the book has been written for two reasons: "to try to correct some misconceptions about dispensationalism which have given rise to false charges against it, and to give a positive presentation of the system as it is being taught in the latter part of the 20th century." He appeals to all Christians never to think or act as if they were the sole possessors of truth.

February, 1966

-C. J. Ramer

DISPENSATIONALISM TODAY. By Charles Caldwell Ryrie. (Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. \$3.95)

Dr. Ryrie, a recognized scholar, is Dean of the graduate school and professor of systematic theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. This new volume from his pen is a strong defense of enlightened dispensationalism. The book both defines and interprets what is meant by dispensationalism as held today by men like himself. Dr. Ryrie admits there are strong opponents of dispensationalism, but feels much of this opposition comes from misunderstanding, or from downright misinterpretation of what dispensationalists actually believe. Defining dispensationalism as "a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God's purpose," he insists that most scholars, though they may not admit to being dispensationalists, actually support positions regarding the divine plan which are greatly similar to those held by proponents of dispensationalism. Though he admits John Nelson Darby had a great influence over dispensational thought, Dr. Ryrie claims dispensationalism has had a long history, pre-dating the time of Darby.

The present volume is concluded with a chapter entitled: "Ultradispensationalism," which, like much else in the volume, may be of interest to many regardless of their own theological views.

With a forward by Frank E. Gaebelein and with the reputation of the author, the book, indeed, deserves examination even by non-dispensationalists or the theologically liberal. 3-24-1966

Watchman Examiner. Gilbert L. Guffin

DISPENSATIONALISM TODAY, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie. Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. 221 pp. \$3.95. Reviewed by Dr. Newman Faulconer pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, S. C.

This book reputedly is the first book-length contemporary apologetic for dispensationalism to be written by a recognized scholar. Dr. Ryrie is indeed a scholar and a courteous Christian in dealing with the critics of dispensationalism, in which he firmly believes and which he ably and fairly defends. His logic and

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convictions may tempt his readers to say: "Almost thou persuadest me."

His avowed purpose is twofold: (1) To try to correct misconceptions and to allay suspicions, and (2) to give a positive presentation of dispensationalism as it is being taught today.

The author endeavors to show that dispensationalism is not a heresy but a helpful explanation of the philosophy of history and God's purposes as revealed in Scripture. He indicates the large areas of agreement between dispensationalists and non-dispensationalists and makes a plea for integrity and charity in dealing with areas of variance — "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

His comments on covenant theology and salvation are intriguing and thought-provoking. According to Dr. Ryrie, "The unifying principle of covenant theology is soteriological, (while) the unifying principle of dispensationalism is doxological." He believes that covenant theology does not have the solution to the problem of salvation under the Mosaic law economy, and claims that dispensationalism does have the

answer — and without being guilty of the accusation that it teaches two ways of salvation. "The dispensationalists' answer is this: The basis of salvation in every age is the death of Christ; the requirement for salvation in every age is faith; the object of faith in every age is God; the content of faith changes in the various dispensations." □

DISPENSATIONALISM TODAY.

Charles Ryrie (Moody), 221 pp. \$3.95.

The review is Herbert Henry Ehrenstein, associate editor of ETERNITY Magazine.

Is another book which has to do with this controversial theme necessary? Why add more fuel to a fire which, in the thinking of many, is dying out? Ryrie feels that dispensationalism, to which he holds, has been unfairly treated by contemporary writers; that it is a valid method of interpreting Scripture and not a heresy; that it goes back in origins about as far as covenant theology, its major competitor.

The reader who expects the usual wrangling polemic will be disappointed. For Ryrie is not interested in name-calling or mud-slinging. He has given us a straightforward defense of his position in 11 logical, gentlemanly and persuasive chapters. It isn't likely that the book will make many converts for dispensationalism; that is not its primary goal. However, it will undoubtedly give critics of the system some food for serious reflection, even though they will seek to find flaws in its arguments.

Quite frankly, I feel that this volume should be required reading in all seminary hermeneutics classes so that students might see that the dispensationalist is not the fanatical obscurantist he is often made out to be. There are a number of surprises in the content and spirit of the book which are not usually found in less logical and more caustic "defenses" of dispensationalism.

Aside from the apologetical value of Ryrie's book as a plea for a fair evaluation of dispensationalism by its opponents, the work has a further and equally important use. It contains a great deal of historical information about personalities and ideas involved in the dispensational debate through the years.

This is an important and worthy text that deserves a careful reading by all who are interested in an adequate interpretation of God's Word, whether or not they agree with its thesis. Eternity June 1966