

Evangelicals and Liberation. Edited by Carl E. Armerding. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co. and Baker Book House: 1977. 136 pp. Paper, \$4.50.

A collection of essays by five conservative authors, this work addresses various aspects of liberation theology. The importance of this movement in our day is unquestioned; information concerning it has not been widely disseminated among evangelicals; thus literature on the subject is needed.

All of the chapters were originally presented as papers before learned societies which does not pitch them for mass appeal. Kenneth Hamilton contributes a good overview and critique of liberationism. As far as the reviewer discovered he was the only contributor who plainly labelled liberation theology as an heresy. Stephen Knapp interacts with Gutierrez critically but not exegetically. Armerding explains the Exodus motif but interacts only along general hermeneutical lines and not specific exegetical points. Harvie Conn contributes two thoughtful chapters, the one on contextualization being most stimulating (even though this reviewer could not agree with all of his directions and conclusions). Clark Pinnock concludes with a pulpit-pounding call to a new international economic order and life style, superficially treated because it only uses selected proof texts that support his over-generalizations while ignoring many other relevant scriptures which raise the difficult questions involved in such a call.

The book could have been made much more useful if the papers had been reworked to coordinate and clarify them. Too, and most important,

there needs to be much more specific dealing with biblical texts in criticism of liberationism, including such basic matters as the relevance of the example of Christ in 1 Peter 2:21-23, the purpose of Exodus (Exod. 8:1), the responsibility to government (Rom. 13), the parable of the talents, to name a few.

To sum up: though this is a worthwhile contribution, the general public will find more help and a more biblical critique in articles that have appeared in Christianity Today (e.g., Chamberlain, June 21, 1974 and Williamson, August 8, 1975).

C. C. Ryrie