

MOSES AND PAUL. By Cornelius R. Stam. The Berean Bible Society, Chicago, 1956. 78 pp.

This book by one of the leaders of the ultradispensational movement is another attempt to prove the thesis of the movement, viz., that Paul's "message and ministry were distinct and separate . . . that to him was committed the doctrine and the program for a new dispensation never before contemplated, except in the mind of God" (p. VI). This attempt is made by studying the comparisons between Paul and Moses, especially as Moses discusses himself in Deuteronomy 4. For instance, the author compares the rebellion against the Word of God through Moses with what he believes is the present day rebellion of the church against the Word through Paul (p. 13), and by such comparison he seeks to validate the authority of Paul. Other chapters discuss how Paul received his authority, why it is necessary to obey it, and how Paul's and Moses's messages are different.

The basic errors of the book (and of the entire movement) are at least three. (1) It is based on faulty theology. Ultradispensationalists have an erroneous definition of a dispensation, for they fail to realize that a dispensation begins when God begins to do something distinctive not when man recognizes it. Actually, they do not have a consistently workable definition. (2) It is forced into faulty exegesis. In this book the most striking example of faulty exegesis is on pages 45-46 where John 1:17 is made to say that grace came through Paul and not through Jesus Christ. Basically, the group has failed to present a proper exegesis of Ephesians 3, for ~~it~~ ~~they~~ reveal that in that passage Paul is not claiming to be the exclusive instrument of revelation of the mystery. (3) It does not compare Scripture with Scripture. If Paul were the one who first revealed the mystery, and if the mystery (as Paul himself says) includes the two facts that Christ is in us (Col. 1:27) and we are in Him (1 Cor. 12:13)

then how do you explain the Lord's revelation of these essential parts of
That antedates Paul too much to fit into the ultradispensational scheme.
the mystery in the upper room (John 14:17)? Grace and truth came through
Jesus Christ while He was here on earth.

Until these basic difficulties are properly resolved all the literature
of the group will have the same one-sided presentation, and therefore none of
it can be recommended as that which will edify the body of Christ.

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