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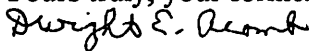
Dear Dr. Ryrie.

Thank you for having your book Basic Theology translated into Russian. About two weeks ago Norman Hutchinson from Gospel Missionary Union brought copies to our school for the students. Everyone is happy for this addition.

Has anyone suggested the possibility of having your book on Neo-Orthodoxy translated into Russian? Because it has been many years since I have read the book, I am not sure how up-to-date an analysis it is now. But I know that in the era when I read it, it was very helpful.

The reason that I bring this up is that my evaluation of the mind-set here in Russia among believers is that they seem susceptible to Neo-Orthodoxy. I say this because of what I see and hear here. (1) The Russians love philosophy and use stories to convey their thoughts. Their thinking is circular and no logical conclusion or commitment is necessary. (2) There is a wide gap between the Bible and real life, just as there was between the communist philosophy and real life. Belief and practice are two worlds which have little to do with each other. When it is suggested that they are both part of the real world, there is argument about the impossibility that the religious could be done in the terrible world in which we live, even though the same people would fight for religious words or in-church traditions. The Bible is worshipped and then ignored in practice. Two compartment lives. (3) As a result, or because there is little difference in the minds of some between the practical and the critical, they seem to see no reason to be upset about the critical views attached to biblical studies--it doesn't touch their religious life. (4) In listening to some of our students' evaluation of Barth and others, I see a lack of discernment. It is philosophical and devotional and feels good to them.

I think that we are looking at a people who are open to Neo-Orthodoxy. So I think that we need a book that evaluates this view. The dean of our school, Johannes Lange from Germany, agrees with me and encouraged me to contact you about this when I mentioned your book. What do you think? Is your book sufficiently up-to-date that you could see it helping here in Russia? Even if it is a little out-of-date, do you see it being of help to us? If you think that this something that is useable here, would you allow us or others of your choosing to translate it? Thanks for your consideration of this idea. Please write me at the above e-mail address.

Yours truly, your former PCB student,

Dwight E. Acomb

