



Books in Review

REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES WITH CATHOLICS

by Ron Rhodes

Harvest House Publishers, 359 pages, \$12.99

Popular author and Bible teacher Ron Rhodes serves up the third offering in his “reasoning from the Scriptures” series with his latest work, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Catholics*. As with his previous two volumes (Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons), Rhodes again provides his readers with yet another wealth of solid information and helpful insight for sharing the Gospel.

The book is advertised as “a step-by-step guide to sharing the Good News with Catholics” and Rhodes himself states in the preface that “this book contains strong biblical arguments against a variety of Roman Catholic doctrines.” The book delivers on both promises.

The volume first establishes evangelizing and dialoguing with Catholics. From there, key chapters of the book examine: the Apocrypha, Scripture vs. tradition; papal infallibility and church authority; justification; the sacraments (including the Mass and transubstantiation); penance, indulgences and purgatory; and the exaltation of Mary. Rhodes ties it all together with a brief chapter offering the “do’s and don’ts” of witnessing to Catholics. Four appendices further examine infant salvation, ecumenism, relics and sanctification.

Throughout his writing, Rhodes draws upon the official *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other official and primary church resources to make his evaluations. The book is generously stocked with thought-provoking questions to direct toward your Catholic family and friends in order to help communicate the unbiblical foundation of much of their religion.

Rhodes has provided the Church with yet another excellent volume with which to speak the truth in love. With nearly 945 million Catholics throughout the world, very few Christians will never have opportunity to witness to a Catholic. Therefore it’s a book for pastor, Sunday school leader and layperson alike.

—MKG

CREATING GOD IN THE IMAGE OF MAN?

The New “Open” View of God – Neotheism’s Dangerous Drift

by Norman L. Geisler

Bethany House Publishers, 191 pages, \$11.99

What is God really like? There is a new movement that is questioning the doctrine of God as taught by the Church Fathers, Reformers and teachers over the last 2,000 years.

Dr. Geisler’s book deals with the hard philosophical and biblical questions as it critiques the “New Theism.” For someone wanting a serious, scholarly, in-depth analysis of the views of John Cobb, Richard Rice, Clark Pinnock, Gregory Boyd and others, this is the book.

The chapter on “The Practical Consequences of Neotheism” is hard-hitting and a wake-up call to a Church whose orthodox foundations are being eroded on every side. Geisler also provides a handy glossary of terms and a detailed index, which make the book very practical and usable.

This book is not for the lazy or the faint of heart but for the serious student of Bible and history. It will stretch your mind and vocabulary. However, the aforementioned glossary and index help make the volume more digestible and understandable for the lay reader.

Geisler outlines for the Christian the urgent need of this work when he states that the volume “warns of a dangerous trend within evangelical circles of creating God in man’s image.” Christians willingly indict cults such as the Mormons for such heretical doctrine. However, they fail to realize that neotheism borrows from pantheism and must be seen as a serious threat to true Christianity. Each of these terms with their attendant dangers are explained.

Reformer Martin Luther suggested that if we are not defending the Gospel at the point at which it is being attacked, we are not defending the Gospel at all. The classical and traditional view of God is under heavy attack and most Christians are unaware of it, let alone gathering tools to address it. Geisler’s book is cutting edge and one of the few addressing this vital subject. We need it in our libraries.

—GRF

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