



Books in Review

THE DRIFT INTO DECEPTION

The Eight Characteristics of Abusive Christianity
by Agnes C. Lawless with John W. Lawless
Kregel Resources, 232 pages, \$10.99

Coming off their own experiences yet laced with much research and biblical support, Agnes and John Lawless show us the patterns of deception within even some "evangelical" fellowships and offer help to those who have been deceived to recover by laying out practical steps for the recovering.

If one wants to know how to spot an enslaving authoritarian structure, this is the book.

On page 11, in the introduction, the reader gets a hint of what's ahead: "Today we Christians are just as blind to impending danger. Hoping for exciting spiritual experiences, we join the crowd climbing aboard the 'cruise ships' of evangelical 'superstars.' As the band plays, we sing rousing choruses. We listen breathlessly as famous leaders, dressed in designer suits, promise us health, wealth, and self-fulfillment. All for a price, of course. ... Because of our experience we, learned that we can all drift into deception if we loosen our moorings and ignore the winds of false doctrines. In this book, we want to show you how vulnerable we all are."

The eight warning signs on pages 59-155 are in themselves worth the price of the book. The questions at the end of each chapter are helpful and thought-provoking and could easily be adapted to a study class.

The authors have succeeded in sounding the alarm with a very timely and helpful book.

—GRF

MASONIC RITES AND WRONGS

An Examination of Freemasonry
by Steven Tsoukalas
P&R Publishers, 241 pages, \$12.99

This volume was born out of a challenge to the teachings of Freemasonry heard by the author on a Christian radio program over a decade ago. What he learned caused him great concern. His father was a Freemason, and as he

listened to the broadcast he discovered Masonic claims were opposed to Christianity. The book is the product of his nine years of exhaustive research.

Tsoukalas' work quickly establishes Freemasonry as a religion despite the claims by adherents that it is little more than a fraternal order. The book is divided into two major sections, The Blue Lodge and The Scottish Rite. The former being the most prevalent in membership and which confers the first three degrees of the society. The latter advances the candidate through an additional thirty degrees (the last or 33rd being an honorary degree). The author examines many of these degrees and their accompanying symbols. Biblical response is also furnished in his evaluations.

The book is reader-friendly, clearly defining those terms foreign to people unfamiliar with Freemasonry. More technical information is available but wisely consigned to a wealth of endnotes. A helpful and necessary index is also included.

Masonic Rites and Wrongs, with its compelling documentation and thorough biblical exegesis, is one of the finest single volume works of the subject of Freemasonry available to the Church today.

—MKG

THE LESS TRAVELED ROAD AND THE BIBLE

**A Scriptural Critique of
the Philosophy Of M. Scott Peck**
by H. Wayne House and Richard Abanes
Horizon Books, 248 pages, \$10.99

Anyone who thinks M. Scott Peck represents Christianity in any way will be shocked and set straight by this thorough analysis of his books and system.

The authors let Peck speak for himself, quoting him extensively and revealing his subtly unorthodox views. He is ecumenical, New Age and anti-Church. His "road" leads us away from God, away from salvation, and away from the Bible.

The book is divided into sections dealing with Peck's psychology and faulty theology. This potent exposé of the open immorality Peck teaches will surprise many.

Peck's books are not the place to find truth. The authors conclude that: "Dr. Peck is constantly seeking after new ideas and hoping to uncover new ways to know what he conceives as truth" (pg. 246).

We can highly recommend this book to our readership.

—GRF

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