

will truly help the reader become engaged with the biblical locations and events. Very well written and illustrated, this book is an excellent source of historical information, and it offers an insight into the society and the culture of the time. In this way, it can prove to be very helpful for a wider reading audience, but it is also useful for understanding and interpreting Bible passages. While there is no lack of such literature in English, it is very rare in Croatian, making this work even more valuable. The book is recommended for a wider reading audience, and especially to theology students, who will find it helpful in their work.

Ervin Budiselić

Fisher Humphreys

**Razmišljanje o Bogu** (*Thinking About God*)

The Bible Institute, Zagreb, 2016, 264 pages

In September 2016, the Bible Institute in Zagreb published a book by the author Dr. Fisher Humphreys called *Thinking About God*. Fisher Humphreys was a professor of theology at the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary* as well as professor emeritus at *Samford University*. He is the author of nine books, and he has written numerous articles.

It is very important that the Croatian edition of the book, *Thinking About God*, saw the light of day 22 years after its second, revised edition. It was first published in English in 1974. At the time, it was a textbook of sorts for the subject, Introduction to Christian Theology, as seen through the perspective of an Evangelical Christian theologian. The book was written in simple language with scientific background, and the author attempted to convey theological doctrines to a wide circle of people in a way that is easy to understand. In this respect, this theological book is not only reserved for theologians. This approach is why the book can be used, not just for a personal studying of theology, but also as an introduction and a guide to the world of theology in church fellowships, theological schools, and seminaries. It is very important that the author lists materials for further study at the end of every chapter. In this way, both theology students and those who wish to know more about theology can deepen their knowledge.

At the beginning of the book, there are two forewords by the author. The first foreword comes from the second revised English edition, while the other was written by the author for the Croatian edition. Following are twelve chapters that deal with various areas of Christian theology.

In chapter one named, *Theology*, the author starts by analyzing the basic definition of theology. Everybody who thinks about God is, in fact, dealing with theology. Theology is divided into popular theology and academic theology. Popular theology is the name for the kind of theology that is engaged in by people who are not experts in the matter. On the other hand, academic theology is the

kind of theology that is engaged in by experts who have been educated in theological seminaries. These two views are not always in agreement. In describing his own theology, the author explains its characteristics in six points. He defines it as Christian, orthodox, biblical, systematic, reparable, and church-related. The author holds that a healthily expressed biblical theology is a good cure for numerous questions that arise within the church.

In chapter two named, *Revelation*, the author talks about God's self-revelation. It is so widespread that it encompasses the entire universe, and it is as deep as the love of the crucified and risen Christ. God revealed Himself to all of humanity through general revelation, while He revealed Himself to His people through a special revelation, both in history, as well as today. The goal is that those who experience a personal relationship with God and who come to believe in Him would become part of a fellowship of believers.

In chapter three, the author writes about God. He outlines his own view of the nature of God, His character, purpose, and His work. God is a personal being, and at the same time, He is transcendental. He is full of love, kindness, and He is perfectly wise and powerful. It is His purpose to have fellowship with the people who will love Him with all their hearts, and who will love their neighbors as they love themselves. However, in order to fully achieve this fellowship, God acted through the prophets throughout history, and He acted specifically through the sacrifice of His Son as the magnificent divine gift of love.

In chapter four entitled, *Man*, the author talks about God's special creation, ie., the creation of man who was, from a Christian perspective, made a little lower than God. In the very first few pages of the book of Genesis in the Bible, we read about man's desire to become equal to God which resulted in man being separated from God due to sinfulness. By analyzing this man as an individual, the author states that on the one hand, man is God's good creation, and on the other, he is a hopeless sinner. Thanks to God's grace, people can be made aware of their condition, as well as of the path of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Chapter five is entitled, *Jesus Christ*. The central theme of this chapter is the doctrine of Christ, ie., christology. It talks about the divinity and the humanness of Jesus Christ. These topics have been a cause for many debates throughout history. I agree with the author's claim that Jesus Christ is a unique person: truly God and truly man. As such, He remains a constant challenge to the faith and minds of Christians. The author points out that it is not a matter of our level of understanding this mystery because we know that the mystery remains forever, but rather it is a matter of how much we believe the glorious God who loved us so much that He came into our world and became as one of us in order to save us from our condition.

Chapter six talks about *The Work of Christ*. It is a phrase that is used by the-

ologians when they speak about Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In explaining the issue of Christ's work, the author considers four factors: history, the Gospel, experience, and interpretation. In the context of history, Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection were real events in ancient history. The Gospel describes the message of salvation, while the factor of experience is the individual's response to the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior and Lord. The fourth factor - interpretation - attempts to explain how God made the salvation of humanity possible through the work of Christ.

In chapter seven named, *The Holy Ghost*, the author introduces the reader to basic facts regarding the divine nature and person of the Holy Spirit. He goes on to conclude that the Holy Spirit is simply God's presence in the world. He is personal and powerful, and He is tasked with leading the church, endowing spiritual gifts, and working in the lives of individuals, forming them into vessels filled with love, kindness, and gentleness.

When talking about *Salvation* in chapter eight, the author points the reader to the trifold usage of this word in the Bible and in the church. He explains it as an act of salvation, as Christ's work of salvation, and as the Christian experience of salvation. It is precisely this Christian experience that is the main subject of this chapter. The chapter talks about the experience of being delivered from sin, about the gift of new life in Jesus Christ, about being healed from spiritual sickness, about being delivered from guilt and the power of darkness, and about being reconciled with God.

After the chapter about salvation, the theological study continues with dealing with the *Christian life* in chapter nine. It begins with the commitment to Christ. On this path, God leads and encourages Christians to live His life of moral integrity, faithfulness to the church, spiritual growth, and serving others. The author emphasizes the importance of fellowship and an accountable life of all believers as members of God's family.

In chapter ten entitled, *The Church*, the author explains the meaning of the term "church" from a Christian standpoint. He considers the church the realization of the purpose of God's creation. As the people of God, it is the Body of Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit. It is also the organization which differentiates between the episcopal, presbyterian, and congregational structures of the local fellowship. Out of obedience to Christ, the church is involved in baptism as the initiation rite, as well as the Lord's Supper as the spiritual meal shared between Christ and His people. The author warns about the lasting task that was given to the church which is praying and working towards the unity between believers and their Lord.

In chapter eleven, the author encourages readers to move their focus from the present to the future. The chapter is titled, *The Christian Hope*. The fact that

Christ is risen and that God constantly loves His people are reasons for Christian hope. In this chapter, the author reminds us that a person's death has two sides. The first side is the fear of dying in natural life, while the other side is the hope in the resurrection at the end of the world through God's grace when we will be brought back to life and reformed into new life. God's Kingdom will be fully achieved once Christ comes back again.

In the twelfth and final chapter titled, *The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*, the author talks about the doctrine of the trinity. This doctrine represents the mystery of the faith. In doing this, he touches on the First Council in Nice in 325 AD, and the Second Council in Constantinople in 381 AD, where the doctrine of the trinity was affirmed. The author pays special attention to the history of the doctrine of the trinity throughout the centuries until today. The author goes on to conclude that the amazing understanding of God as the Trinity is completely biblical, perfectly reasonable, and of uttermost importance for the life of the church and all Christians today.

The book, *Thinking about God*, is a rounded whole. Considering the subject matter, but also the simple approach to writing, this book challenges every individual to become familiar with the Christian evangelical view of theology. Although we might expect to deal with complex theological terminology, the author was able to bring Christian theology closer to everyone without leaving out any important facts. On one hand, this book is a practical theological guide, and on the other it is a theological textbook for taking the first steps into the world of theology. I believe this book will be eagerly accepted in theological seminaries, as well as useful literature for deepening one's own personal faith in God and for strengthening church fellowship as a whole. I think it is worth having a book like this in one's own personal library.

Danijel Časni

Sinclair B. Ferguson

**The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism, And Gospel Assurance—Why The Marrow Controversy Still Matters**

Wheaton, Illinois USA, Crossway, 2016, 256 pages

A new book by a theology professor and a former Presbyterian minister, Sinclair B. Ferguson, is a mixture of a historical snippet, a theological reflection about the origin and character of legalism and antinomianism, but also an encouragement to proclaim the gospel and live it through fortifying our hearts in God's grace and love.

Professor Ferguson begins his book with a historical overview of how this book started more than thirty years ago when he was preparing to teach about