
Book Reviews

J Gresham Machen: A Biographical Memoir

Ned B Stonehouse
Banner of Truth, 520 pp £5.95

John Gresham Machen (1881-1937) was an influential figure in the earlier part of this century in the United States. His education in Princeton Theological Seminary was followed by studies in Europe and then his appointment as NT Instructor at Princeton (1906-1914). Machen was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in 1914 after years of doubt and anguish. In that year Dr Ross Stevenson was appointed President of Princeton and became an 'active spokesman and agent for a point of view which was ultimately destined to revolutionize the Seminary' (p 212) for worse, not better.

Machen's book, **CHRISTIANITY AND LIBERALISM**, published in 1923 'catapulted him into the centre of the arena of ecclesiastical and religious life where the broader controversy between Christianity and modernism was being fought' (p 335). As the Presbyterian Church and its Seminary favoured increasingly a broad ecumenism with modernism in its wake, despite the warnings and teachings of Machen, and many godly leaders, there was the inevitable but painful decision of Machen and others to withdraw from both. Led by clear biblical principles, Machen was the founder of Westminster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania and worked to establish a truly evangelical Presbyterian church in the United States.

He was a scholar whose mind was always captive to the Word of God. His great love of Christ, deep concern for biblical truth and willingness to suffer for the gospel are a great challenge to our generation of Christians today.

Jonathan Edwards: A New Biography

Iain Murray
Banner of Truth, 503 pp £10.95

This book has been meticulously researched and exceptionally well-written. Historically, it is reliable and illuminating; the biographer's grasp and appreciation of Edwards's theology and Christian experience make the book even more valuable. Undoubtedly, this is going to be the standard biography of Edwards for many decades to come.

Jonathan Edwards, of course, was one of the most able thinkers in America, if not in the West, in the eighteenth century; he was also an outstanding theologian and a diligent, godly pastor. This biography describes in a vivid yet honest way his life and work. Although serialized over many months in the *Banner* magazine, the material will be more useful to us in book form. I hope that members, as well as officers of our churches, will read and benefit from this outstanding book. The words of D Martyn Lloyd-Jones on the back cover are true: 'No man is more relevant to the present conditions of Christianity than Jonathan Edwards... He was a mighty theologian and a great evangelist at the same time. If you want to know anything about true revival, Edwards is the man to consult. My advice is, read Jonathan Edwards. Go back to something solid and deep and real!'