
Editorial

In contemporary churches, evangelicalism is increasingly spoken of not as a consistent set of doctrinal convictions but as reflecting a spectrum of views. Some significant shifts from traditional evangelical positions have taken place but these are being promoted by those with a gospel experience and who profess to maintain the final authority of Scripture.

From its inception, FOUNDATIONS has published the work of those on the decidedly conservative end of the evangelical spectrum. In this twenty-seventh issue we include some significant articles which well illustrate this principle. Readers will see for themselves how concerned the constituency of the British Evangelical Council is about serious divergences from basic Biblical doctrines.

The EXEGESIS article, for example, focuses on the Prologue of John 1:1-18 and Simon Martin sets it within its pluralist context. By a particular study of vs 9-11 he demonstrates the inconsistency of those evangelicals who use this passage to claim a saving efficacy for general revelation. Here is an extremely important crux for the theology of mission in a pluralist age. Similarly, Philip Eveson updates us on INTERPRETING JUSTIFICATION TODAY. He traces the influence of a liberal work on recent evangelical writers and shows that adopting these views will lead to the accommodation of unreformed Roman Catholic definitions, with all the ecumenical consequences which will follow. CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION is the subject handled by Hywel Jones in a review article giving another example of changes in evangelical orthodoxy in our day. It will serve as a good introduction for readers unfamiliar with this school of thought and the practical issues raised by it. A longer article is provided by G Wyn Davies on CONTEMPORARY VALUES and their danger for Christians; this was originally delivered in the 1990 BEC Conference in London.

Warning about the errors of others, however, is only one side of the journal's ministry. On a positive note, Alan Gibson writes on PROMOTING EVANGELICAL CHURCH UNITY and seeks to apply New Testament principles within and beyond the BEC context. Recently, the Scottish Theology Study Group, which meets under the auspices of Rutherford House, produced a STATEMENT OF FAITH to speak to the issues and concerns of today and this is favourably reviewed by Neil Richards. John Kendall encourages preachers to tackle the neglected text of the book of ESTHER by making useful suggestions about the structure of the book and the way to approach it. Several BOOK REVIEWS are also included. Due to lack of space the promised article on LIBERATION THEOLOGY has been held over until the next issue.

With this issue we welcome new readers in Bible and Theological Colleges who are now receiving FOUNDATIONS at half-price. This has been made possible by special arrangements of the BEC Executive Council. We trust that they will benefit by reading it and recommend it to others.

The sudden death took place on 3rd August of the Rev J Douglas MacMillan, minister of Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, Edinburgh and an Associate Editor of FOUNDATIONS. He was loved and respected far beyond Scotland. Our Christian love and sympathy have been expressed to Mrs Mary MacMillan and the family in their personal loss.