
Editorial

In this sixteenth issue of *Foundations* we are majoring on reviews of books, commentaries and journals. This is a valuable service to readers, especially busy pastors, in keeping them informed of new publications as well as trends in theology or areas requiring further study.

Our first article, however, turns our attention once again in the **Focus** series to the doctrine of the Church. This time we are publishing the considered response of the BEC Executive Council to the British Council of Churches Inter Church Programme which is entitled **What is the Church?** The subject is clearly important with its wide-ranging implications and is only one of several items in this issue on ecumenism which merit your careful consideration.

One of our Associate Editors, the Rev Hywel Jones, contributes a review article entitled **Literal or Literary?** It takes up the hermeneutical question of the form of language used in Genesis 1—3 raised by Henri Blocher's book 'In the Beginning'. The reviewer considers this an important new work and 'a stimulus to the production of a genuinely contemporary but biblical and evangelical theology of creation'.

For **Exegesis** this time, Professor Leahy has written a detailed treatment of 'the man of sin' in 2 Thessalonians and because of its contemporary relevance we ask readers to appraise his exegetical work carefully, even though they may not all agree with its conclusion.

Books about the history and nature of ecumenism form the basis of the second part of the Editor's article on **Ecumenical Theology** begun in Issue 15. This is followed by a review of the BCC Study Document, '**What on Earth is the Church for?**' provided by the Rev Alan Gibson. The topic of unity among evangelicals also arises in the Rev Peter Seccombe's review of '**Restoring the Kingdom**', a book on Restorationism which has aroused considerable interest.

The Rev Stephen Dray provides us with an extensive review of **Old Testament Titles: an Update** which is packed with information and guidance about commentaries and other works of a more general nature.

The final article is by an obedient Editor who has received numerous requests to include more regularly a **Review of Theological Journals**. The first part of the 1985—6 Review appears this time and it is hoped to complete it in the next issue.

We trust you will benefit from reading this issue and that you will further help us by commending the journal to your friends and church leaders.