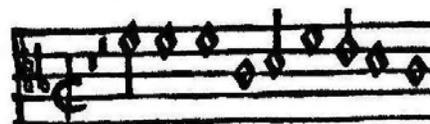


Liturgy, Hymnody, & Pulpit Quarterly Book Review

Volume 2, Issue 4
Angels' Tide, 2008

Martinus Luther



Ein feste burg ist vnserr Gott



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*Eusebius
Cantus Christi
Liturgical Theology
Luther's Liturgical Music
The Digital Bach Collection
The Book of Concord on CD-ROM*

Liturgy, Hymnody, & Pulpit

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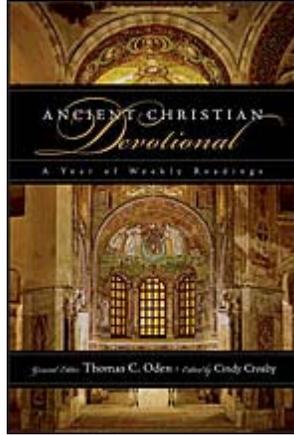


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Pulpit Review

Oden, Thomas C., General Editor. Edited by Cindy Crosby. *Ancient Christian Devotional: A Year of Weekly Readings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. 294 pages. Paper. \$17.00. www.ivpress.com (LHP)

Ancient Christian Devotional is the first offering I have encountered of **Formatio**, a new imprint of InterVarsity Press (1) “By helping us read holy writings with ancient eyes, the church fathers help us drink deeply from the only water that can give us true life. This guide to prayer and reflection combines excerpts from the writings as found in the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* with a simple structure for daily or weekly reading and prayer” (back cover).



Is a companion and introduction to the ACCS as well as IVP’s Learning Theology with the Church Fathers and Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers.

Each of the devotions has the same outline:

- ✠ Theme
- ✠ Opening Prayer
- ✠ Readings (Three, from the A cycle of the Three-Year Lectionary)
- ✠ Psalm of Response (after the Old Testament Reading)
- ✠ Reflections from the Church Fathers (on each Scripture passage)
- ✠ Closing Prayer (Both prayers are from ancient sources)

Bible texts are not printed for you. Have a Bible (or your Year A volume of the Lutheran Service Book Lectionary) handy.

“There are fifty-two weeks of readings following the weekly lectionary cycle A. You can read through them in order or by thematic interest. Each day you will also find a simple opening and closing prayer drawn from the prayers and hymns of the ancient church” (back cover).

Since this collection of devotions are based on Series A of the post-Vatican II Roman and Protestant Three-Year Lectionary series. I would encourage the editors

and publisher to consider volumes based on series years B, C, as well as the Historic One-Year Lectionary Series of western Christianity. A Year of Weekly Readings could be followed up by B Year of Weekly Readings, and C Year of Weekly Readings.

I love the insights of the fathers, not for their infallibility, but for their apostolic, biblical theology, catholicity, and freshness, something we need in our modern world. We are hardly the first Christians to read Scripture, receive His forgiveness, and serve our neighbor to prove that faith is living (see *LSB* 555:9).

Read these devotions to prepare for Sunday services, to prepare to write your sermon, to learn from saints who have gone before. Mine them for sermon illustrations, encouragement for your own faith, and to sample the ACCS.

“Thomas C. Oden recently retired as Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology at The Theological School of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He is general editor of the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* and the author of numerous theological works, including a three-volume systematic theology.

“Cindy Crosby is the author of four books, including *By Willoway Brook: Exploring the Landscape of Prayer*. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *Books & Culture*, *Mars Hill Review* and *Publisher’s weekly*” (back cover).

PJC

Pulpit Review

Vance, Laurence M. *Guide to Adjectives in the Greek New Testament*. Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 2008. 32 Pages. Paper. \$5.95. www.vancepublications.com (P)

Vance, Laurence M. *Guide to Prepositions in the Greek New Testament*. Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 2007. 32 Pages. Paper. \$5.95. www.vancepublications.com (P)

Vance, Laurence M. *Guide to Pronouns in the Greek New Testament*. Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 2008. 36 Pages. Paper. \$5.95. www.vancepublications.com (P)

Vance, Laurence M. *Guide to Nouns in the Greek New Testament*. Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 2008. 32 Pages. Paper. \$5.95. www.vancepublications.com (P)

\$20.00 for a set of all four guides.

These four booklet guides have common strengths, especially taken as a set. First, the examples provided come from the *Greek New Testament* itself. This is unique in my experience, impressive, and useful.

After all, our goal in learning Greek was to interpret the Greek New Testament. It is helpful to put that grammar into practice right away.

Second, I loved focusing on everything about a *single* part of speech (noun, pronoun, adjective, or preposition) at one time. Traditional grammars, like mathematics textbooks, begin with the basics and build on them, and changing topics from addition (or nouns) to multiplication (or verbs) to greater than/less than, decimals, fractions (or pronouns, adjectives, and prepositions). This four-volume booklet set treats parts of speech individually and thoroughly for the beginner, especially a Greek student praying and studying to pass a seminary Greek qualifying exam.



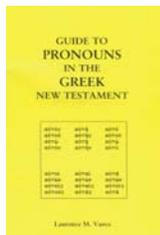
Nouns should be read first. It begins by introducing the declension of nouns, the nominative case, and the genitive, dative, accusative, and even the vocative cases. Charts are clear, concise, and in an attractive Greek font. The author defines his terms well, especially the definite article and indefinite article (18-19).

An especially helpful section, “The Use of the Cases,” begins on page 23. This is essential material to know, as survivors of the LCMS Greek qualifying exam know well ☺.



Readers of Adjectives will learn/relearn (5) “the declension of adjectives, the use of adjectives, the adjectival use of prepositional phrases, the declension and use of comparative and superlative adjectives, and the declension and use of numerals.” Vance’s charts are

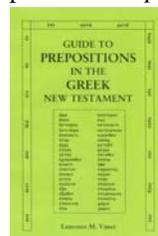
arranged to help the student see the patterns imbedded in Koine Greek. I found it helpful and practical to learn the “2-2” and 3-1-3” nomenclature for adjectives (11). My understanding of adjectives is much improved.



Pronouns is organized into eleven parts, as the author’s own introduction notes (5). It builds upon the Nouns and Adjective booklets. I appreciated hearing the author’s original-language (Latin, 13) as in *demonstro*, “I point out,” in introduction of Demonstrative

Pronouns. Often, seeing the same “chart” information in a different form helps a person better understand a concept better. Such is the case with this booklet, particularly with a specific “quantitative relative pronoun” on page 29. Again, the Greek New Testament examples are particularly striking.

In my college German class, we had songs to learn the various prepositions of that language based on common melodies. This is the next best thing. Not only that, the Prep booklet provides a much greater depth than musical memorization “ditties” could ever provide. *Prepositions* sets before the Greek scholar:



“position, direction, time, agency, means, association, cause, purpose, or source” (6). Dr. Vance ties up the loose ends of other basic grammars in that he helps the student solve the “mystery” that is Greek. Mystery plots reveal “who did it” at the end.

Grammars are similar. Look for clearly-shown connections given to you as if a gift. What is the difference between improper and proper prepositions? See page 19 and items #34ff and the list on page 20.

As an active pastor in parish ministry, constantly working toward a balance between pastoral preparation in prayer and study and pastoral care in the lives of people, I commend these four guides have been a welcome review and refreshing representation of some of the parts of speech in the service of understanding and translating the Greek New Testament.

“Laurence M. Vance, Ph. D., holds degrees in history, theology, accounting, and economics. The author of fifteen books, he regularly contributes articles and book reviews to both secular and religious periodicals. Dr. Vance is also a member of the Society of Biblical Literature.”

QBR and this reviewer welcome the opportunity to review Laurence Vance’s premier resource, *Greek Verbs in the New Testament and Their Principal Parts*.

PJC

Pulpit Review

Ramsay, Richard B. *Basic Greek and Exegesis*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company, 2008. 144 Pages. Paper. \$22.99. www.prpbooks.com (P)

Let me be perfectly clear: *Basic Greek and Exegesis* is not your typical Greek instruction method for your typical Greek student. It is designed for the non-expert, possibly someone who doesn’t have or won’t likely ever have “an extensive knowledge of the language” (ix).

This book is also an introduction to basic Bible interpretation, exegesis. On that note, I was not thrilled to see Bruce Wilkinson’s books brought up (3). Prepositions are actually very important. If