

biblos – om aktuelle bøker

For et tidsskrift som *Theofilos* spiller all-tid bøker en sentral rolle, både i form av anmeldelser og lengre artikler om aktuelle bøker. I tillegg til disse bidragene, innfører vi fra og med dette nummeret en spalte om aktuelle og innkomne bøker til *Theofilos*. Vi ønsker fremover å ha en kombinasjon av anmeldelser på engelsk og våre skandinaviske språk. Vi vil gjerne bruke anledningen til å takke Greg Laughery for trofast innsats over flere nummer, og vi ser frem til å kunne regne med noen anmeldelser fra hans hånd også fremover.

Vi får altså av og til tilsendt bøker til redaksjonen i *Theofilos*. La oss her nevne to. Den første er *Diakoni i velferdssamfunnet. Mangfold og dilemmaer* (Fagbokforlaget 2018) av Hans Morten Haugen, professor i internasjonal diakoni ved VID vitenskapelige høyskole. Her drøftes et vell av sentrale spørsmål og utfordringer for diakonien i vår tid, fra press fra sekularisme, nedbygging av velferdsstaten, popu-

lisme, endringer i demografi og til globale spørsmål om solidaritet og miljø.

Den andre boken er *Förnyelse – förbistring – försoning. En studie av vitaliseringsrörelser och ekumenisk utveckling på fem sydsvenska orter 1979-2015* (Artos & Norma 2018) av Arne Olsson. Dette er en doktorgradsavhandling i praktisk teologi ved Lund universitet som ser på hvordan fornyelsesbevegelser som først skaper spenninger og konflikt i kirkelandskapet, senere i mange tilfeller også finner frem til forsoning. Med andre ord en aktuell og vesentlig avhandling.

Vi gjør også oppmerksom på Stefan Swärds artikkel i forum om den i svensk kulturdebatt meget aktuelle boka *Gud: Återkomsten* (Libris 2018) av Joel Halldorf.

Bjørn Hinderaker
(bokredaktør)

biblos – anmeldelser / recensioner / reviews

Conversion

Ingolf U. Dalferth and M. CH.

Rodgers, eds

Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013 (282 ss).

This is another compelling volume from the Claremont Conferences on Philosophy of Religion. Dealing with the significant, though often ignored topic of Conversion, these essays and responses wrestle with this vital subject, which should indeed be at the forefront of cultural, religious, philosophical, and theological studies.

The Introduction to the book is written by Ingolf Dalferth, who underscores some of the complexity of this issue. When

one considers the vast array of religions today, along with the plurality of cultures and new forms of globalization, the notion of Conversion now more than ever merits serious investigation.

In Part 1 there is four main papers and three responses, covering ancient Judaism (Gary Gilbert, Shelly Long), contemporary Israel (Yaron Catane), Islam in several forms, (Ayse Kadayifci, Richard Livingston) and the Ecumenical movement (Joseph Phrabu, Marlene Block).

These informative papers and replies offer perceptive accounts on the meaning of Conversion in a narrower religious sense (Eastern religions are mostly left out).

They articulate and respond to various perspectives that originate outside emblematic Western and Christian points of view, which makes for interesting reading, especially for those who embrace such traditional interpretations.

In Part II there are six core essays and five responses engaging the philosophical and theological dimensions of Conversion: Atonement and Love (Eleonore Stump, Deidre Green), Age of Globalization (Anselm Min, Kirsten Gerdes), Truth and Rationality (Heiko Schulz, Michael Rodgers), Moral Change (John Cottingham, Eric Hall), Divine and Human Action (William Abraham, Andreas Hunziker), Religious Rationality (Stephen Davis).

These challenging papers and the lively responses to them offer insights into various aspects of Conversion; potential causes and impacts. Several philosophers and theologians are discussed including, Aquinas, Anselm, Wesley, Kierkegaard, Hegel, Heidegger, and Foucault, while ontology, phenomenology, epistemology, and ethics are explored and assessed. All this makes for a fascinating array of perspectives on both the general and specific notions of Conversion and how to better understand its meaning and potential significance today.

The papers and responses in this book are excellent; rigorous and insightful. There is much here of value and interest, as the question of Conversion remains controversial. The volume offers a robust treatment of this explosive subject and is well worth reading.

Gregory J. Laughery

Faith, Hope, Love, and Justice. The Theological Virtues Today

Anselm K. Min, ed

Lanham: Lexington Books, 2018 (234 ss).

This thought provoking volume is a timely contribution to the salient topics of faith, hope, love, and justice from a Claremont Graduate University conference. While these four subjects carry tremendous historical weight and significance, some argue it is difficult to understand their relevance in our postmodern context today. Hence, there is a crucial need for deeper investigation and research into the meaning and purpose of these virtues in our contemporary environment. Not only does this book fulfil this objective, but it does so in a creative, astute, and diverse fashion.

The book consists of eight essays and responses. Readers are offered excellent core papers, but also the feedback to them in the text is immediate, and thus promotes a sense of interaction and dialogue with proposed ideas and insights, which are further developed and sometimes challenged. This feature is useful for each part and to the impact of the book as a whole.

The first chapter is an analysis by Thomas P. Rausch S.J. of three encyclicals of Pope Benedict XVI (2005, *God is Love*; 2007, *Saved in Hope*; 2013, *Light of Faith*) entitled "Faith, Hope, and Love in the Thought of Pope Benedict XVI." In Rausch's opinion, Pope Benedict holds that society is threatened by an ever growing culture of secularism, which degrades faith, hope, and love by stripping away any transcendent dimensions from their meaning. Benedict is concerned that things are markedly moving further away from God and that culture needs to be turned away from its present darkness towards the illuminating love of God and