

New Testament Commentary. Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

by Simon J. Kistemaker,
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reviewed by Johan D. Tangelder

When Dr. William Hendriksen died in January, 1982, he left behind a legacy of a thoroughly Reformed-evangelical commentary series on the four Gospels and all the epistles of Paul with the exception of I and II Corinthians. Personally I have found them excellent for Bible study and sermon preparation. Hendriksen had the gift to make complex ideas clear.

Dr. Kistemaker, who has been given the task to continue with the series, has proven to be a worthy successor. His commentary on Hebrews is free from technical language so that not only the pastor, but also the lay person can read the explanation of a text without much difficulty. Greek words, phrases and constructions are at the conclusion of each section for those acquainted with this language. Each chapter contains an introduction, comments about doctrinal considerations, and a summary. The practical helps, the poetry, hymns and psalms quoted, the sound exegesis, and the fine writing style makes for easy reading. I congratulate Dr. Kistemaker with this wonderful achievement.

Dr. Kistemaker has been a professor of New Testament at the Reformed Theological Seminary since 1971 and is chairman of this department. He was a home missionary for two years in Vernon, B.C., and then professor of Bible at Dordt College for eight. He is a past president of the Evangelical Theological Society, which he now serves as secretary-treasurer.

â€œ. . . undertaken to provide earnest students of the New Testament with an exposition that is thorough and abreast of modern scholarship and at the same time loyal to the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God.â€ This statement reflects the underlying purpose of The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Begun in the late 1940s by an international team of New Testament scholars, the NICNT series has become recognized by pastors, students, and scholars alike as a critical yet orthodox commentary marked by solid biblical scholarship within the evangelical Protestant tradition. While The 19th book of the New Testament is usually called "The Epistle (or Letter) to the Hebrews." However, its form or genre is not really like an ancient letter (except for the ending), but more like a treatise and a homily (a sermon based on scripture). Moreover, this writing does not explicitly address any "Hebrews" (a title not attached until the second century), and its author was almost certainly not St. Paul (as had been assumed for much of Christian history). Nonetheless, the composition commonly known as "To the Hebrews" was one of the most influential early