

II. NEW TESTAMENT.

Paul The Interpreter of Christ. By Prof. A. T. Robertson, M. A., D. D., LL. D., Litt. D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. George H. Doran Company, New York. 155 pp. \$2.00 net.

It is mere commonplace to say that among scholars in the province of New Testament interpretation Dr. Robertson stands easily in the forefront, and deservedly so, both by right of constructive thinking and fidelity to the wholesome principles of biblical exegesis. Any book bearing his name immediately finds an audience of eager readers who follow him with confidence. This is in itself a monument to his splendid life, but it has been attained through monumental labors and unselfish devotion to the cause of Christ. He stands as a rock of defense against and offense to the group of unreasonable, bitter, unsympathetic, and rash assailants both of Jesus and of Paul,—and a foeman worthy of the steel of all. It is magnificent to see him in action. He has won and will win because right.

Among his other contributions of singular merit two stand out as distinctive in their comprehensiveness,—his “Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research”, received with highest praise by scholars everywhere, and his more recent volume “Luke the Historian in Light of Research”, in which Lukan writings are vigorously championed and the claims of Luke himself vindicated with regard to an orderly statement of the facts concerning the earthly life of our Lord and the spread of Christianity. These books are the first in their respective fields.

Yet, Dr. Robertson never wrote a thing that was merely ordinary; he is commonplace in nothing. And one feels that in this latest volume “Paul the Interpreter of Christ” the author has put some of his best thought, homely wisdom, and practical observation, and in a wonderful manner shows himself an unerring interpreter of Paul. In twelve chapters there are presented the various angles and corners of Paul’s life and teaching that have

a present-day interest. Some of these chapters have previously appeared in part or in whole in a number of religious periodicals. The first division "Paul the Interpreter of Christ" is of paramount importance, but one finds a table of good things in the treatment of other phases of the great Apostle's career such as "The Versatility of Paul", "Paul and the Deity of Christ", "Paul not a Sacramentarian", "Paul and Patriotism", "Paul's Missionary Statesmanship", "Paul's Interest in Young Ministers", "Paul in the Center of Greek Culture", etc.

Two things are characteristic: a broad spirit of sympathy and the happy faculty to orientate himself, to stand right at the beginning and the heart of things and to see the events in their proper perspective; and second, the faithful adherence to the only commanding position of interpretation,—reading out of the text only what it contains, and not putting into it a thought or claim which it does in no way profess to have. In this respect Dr. Robertson is a prince among exegetes but only so because he runs true to form and content and stands loyally by the Book. The reader will pause many times along this road of friendly talks about the great Apostle, and when he reaches the end it will be to share in a richer, deeper sense the soul-yearning of the "Interpreter of Christ" that "I may know Him",—but he will also agree with the author that, humanly speaking, Paul remains to-day, as of old, the chief interpreter of Jesus Christ for modern men. And if the demand of the day is to "get back to Jesus", we can and we must do that, but we must also go by way of Paul.

J. MCKEE ADAMS.

Jesus and Paul. Letters Given at Manchester College, Oxford, for the Winter Term, 1920. By Benjamin W. Bacon, D. D., Buckingham, Professor of New Testament Criticism and Interpretation in Yale University. New York, 1921. The Macmillan Company. 251 pp. \$2.50.

The emphasis in this title is on *and*. Dr. Bacon vigorously contends against the Jesus *or* Paul schools of criticism and very skilfully identifies in principle the "gospel of Jesus" and "the