

**Paul's Joy in Christ—Studies in Philippians.** By A. T. Robertson, M.A., D.D., LL.D., Professor of New Testament Interpretation in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. New York, 1917, Fleming H. Revell Company. 267 pp. \$1.25 net.

The prolific pen of Professor Robertson again offers its blessings to loving students of the love of God in Christ Jesus. In Philippians we reach the heart of Paul's heart as that apostolic soul was enlarged and enriched in Christ, to employ Paul's most characteristic phrase describing Christian experience.

It is now a commonplace of knowledge that Dr. Robertson brings to the study of any New Testament passage the ripest Greek scholarship that the world knows. But there is another quality for interpreting the Word of God, equally as necessary, yes, more necessary. I speak of sympathetic spiritual insight. There is a large and growing body of lovers of the Word who know that Dr. Robertson has also this qualification for unfolding to us not the thought alone but the feeling also that makes forever living the epistles of the great apostle to the nations.

These expository addresses attracted great crowds when they were first delivered at Northfield at the first hour of the morning, and their publication was requested at that time. They have since been used at several other places, bringing the same help and the same desire that they might be printed so that one could have them for further study and reflection and so that thousands might have the benefit of them who could not hear them orally delivered.

Here they are, ready for all who rejoice in the Lord always and for all who desire to come into that joy which was one of the most remarkable facts about this most remarkable product of the Spirit of Christ in all the history of the gospel.

The scholar who knows the theories of composition and authorship will here find himself companying with one who is at home in all that knowledge, but whose aim is far deeper and more significant than discussing "problems of criticism", and who uses this learning where it can help the spiritual understanding and omits it where it has no bearing on that great end. Scholar and plain reader will both find in copious footnotes references to the authorities, Greek words and phrases cited and explanations offered. The scholars will use them while the plain readers will find it no trouble to omit them and read on without interruption.

This is a great book with which to begin the year and follow through cultivating the joy of our religion in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the richness of his own religious experience the great scholar interprets the main features of the richest expression of the experience

of him who learned to lead every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. It is not a commentary but an exposition that we have here.

W. O. CARVER.

**Jesus is Coming to Earth Again.** By M. E. Dodd. Southwestern Tract Society, Shreveport, La., 1917. 63 pp. Cloth, 50 cts.; paper, 25 cts.

The able and popular pastor of the First Church at Shreveport gives us in this volume a very clear and concise presentation of the pre-millennial view of the second coming of Christ. Dr. Dodd's discussion makes very large use of Scripture and is marked by a moderation and restraint which we sometimes fail to discover in books on this great theme. He holds, of course, that Christ's return will be literal and personal and not merely spiritual; that the dead in Christ will be raised; that living saints who are worthy will be caught up with the Lord in the air, while unworthy yet real Christians will remain and pass through the great tribulation which is to follow; that Christ will afterward descend to earth, smite and destroy Antichrist, and bind Satan, and then with His saints will reign on earth a thousand years; and that during this period great evangelistic power will prevail among men. The Jews are to be restored. Dr. Dodd does not discuss the question of the judgment of the nations and the final judgment which usually are features of the pre-millennial view.

The writer sympathizes with the leading idea of this book, viz., that Christ's return is to be visible and personal and that the attitude of expectation is wholesome for Christian believers. But he is unable to reach a satisfactory view as to the millennium—at least as that issue turns on the pre- and post- theories. The one passage in Revelation 20 in which the thousand years' reign of Christ is mentioned does not indubitably refer to this earth at all. And if we are to take it literally at all points the saints who reign with Christ are the martyrs only. Dr. Dodd in part meets this last objection by maintaining that only the worthy living Christians are to be caught up with the Lord. But the entire body of the dead in Christ are, according to the view held, raised to reign with him.

The great war which is now shaking the earth has stirred the hearts of men beyond any occurrence since Christ came the first time. It was inevitable that prophecy should engage the attention of Christians once more to an unusual degree. As we understand it, prophecy is an anchor for the tried soul in which the great truth of God's reign, His purpose and plan for the world, are kept alive for faith in times of darkness and trial. And it performs this function better when held in its larger outlines than when interpreted too minutely in details. An excellent case can be made out for the post-millennial view from