

MBA OBAME Boris

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New Testament Theology

Summary of Wendel Sun's article

Unity and or diversity? A survey of Recent New Testament Theology, is an article written by Wendel Sun who is an academic Dean and associates professor of Biblical theology et a repris seminary in China. Before writing this particular article, the author came to realise that unlike before, the New. Testament Theology has become an opened discipline, a discipline which any students je of New Testament Theology can easily je have access to. And this accessibility of course is due to the improvement of mentalités, technologies, idées and some other features. Hence he states that recent years have witnessed an unprecedented explosion in the publication of New Testament Theologies. This is likely due to a number of factors including the growth of interest in Biblical theology that moves beyond the mere historical grammatical investigation of the text and especially the surge of concern for the theological interpretation of scripture. For us to understand clearly what he means, the author adopts an analytical method and that analytical method goes with the study of some authors who are experts on that field.

THE FIRST AUTHOR,WHO IS HOWARD MARSHALL TALKS ABOUT MANU WITNESSES BUT ONE GOSPEL HE ARGUES THAT THOUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS TWENTY SEVEN BOOKS, EACH ONE OF THEM OF COURSE HAS ITS PECUARIETY AND THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL REMAINS THE SAME. IT STILL TURNS AROUND JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS PROCLAIMED AS LORD AND SAVIOUR. WHILE MARSHALL'S CHAPTERS ON INDIVIDUAL NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS EMPHASIZE THEIR THEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THOSE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER INTO EXTENDED SECTIONS, EACH OF WHICH CONCLUDES WITH A CHAPTER AIMING TO DEMONSTRATE THE THEOLOGICAL UNITY OF THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT. THE SECOND AUTHOR, FRANCK THIELEMAN TALKS OF A CANONICAL AND SYNTHETIC APPROACH OF NEW TESTAMENT. HIS ARGUMENT IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT EACH BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS SPECIAL. IN OTHER WORDS IT IS NOT TO BE ASSIMILATED TO ANY OTHER BOOK JUST BECAUSE IT SHARES THE SAME AUTHOR WITH IT. THEREFORE, THIELEMAN'S PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO ALLOW EACH BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF, THEREBY HIGHLIGHTING ITS UNIQUE THEOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. THE THIRD ONE WHO IS FRANCK J. MATERA EXPLORES THE NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY IN ITS DIVERSITY AND UNITY. HIS OPINION IS DIFFERENT FROM MARSHALL'S OPINION SINCE HE HIMSELF SEEKS TO DO JUSTICE TO THE DIVERSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE VARIOUS NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS WHILE SHOWING THAT WITHIN THIS DIVERSITY, THERE IS A CORE OF THEOLOGICAL UNITY. SO THIS OPINION ONCE MORE COMES TO SHOW THE UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY. IT IS THAT UNITY AND DIVERSITY THAT GIVES BIRTH TO THE WHOLE BODY WE HAVE.

THE FOURTH AUTHOR WHOSE NAME IS THOMAS R. SCHREINER, WRITTING ON MANGNIFYING GOD IN CHRIST

COMES HERE WITH A DIFFERENT APPROACH HE PLOTS FOR A THEMATIC APPROACH AND FROM THE TERM THEMATIC, WE UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT HIS AIM IS TO STUDY EACH BOOK ONE BY ONE, WITH ITS REALITIES, ITS THEOLOGY AND REALITIES. IN HIS PREFACE, HE BRIEFLY DEFENDS THIS STRATEGY POINTING OUT THAT THE THEMATIC PRESENTATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CAN BE MORE STRICTLY CALLED NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY BECAUSE, UNLIKE A BOOK BY BOOK APPROACH WHICH BEGINS WITH THE THEOLOGY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL TEXT, FROM THE OUTSET IT AIMS TO EXPLAIN THE THEOLOGY OF THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT. THE FIFTH AUTHOR, UDO SCHNELLE, WRITING ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, GIVES A GENERAL VIEW OF THE DISCIPLINE. HIS APPROACH IS CONSIDERED DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE FROM THE SIMPLE FACT THAT HE WANTS TO PRESENT TO THE READERS BOTH THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL DIMENSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS RECORD THE EFFORTS OF EARLY BELIEVERS SEEKING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST AND THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION IN HIM. THE FIFTH AND LAST AUTHOR IS G. K. BEALE, TALKING ABOUT THE UNFOLDING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW. FOR HIM, THERE IS NO SEPARATION BETWEEN THE TWO COVENANTS SINCE ONE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OTHER. HE SEEKS TO OFFER NOT MERELY A NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS THEOLOGY BUT A NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY. BUILDING ON THE WORK OF SCHOLARS SUCH AS HANS HUBNER AND PETER STUHLMACHER, HE PRESENTS THE THEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IN RELATION TO THE OT SO AS TO PRODUCE A WORK THAT, WHILE PRIMARILY FOCUSING ON THE NEW TESTAMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A WHOLE BIBLE BIBLICAL THEOLOGY.