

Citation metadata

Author: Laura L. Brenneman
Date: Jan. 2013
From: Mennonite Quarterly Review(Vol. 87, Issue 1)
Publisher: Mennonite Historical Society
Document Type: Book review
Length: 1,221 words

Main content

Article Preview :

1, 2, 3 John. Believers Church Bible Commentary. By J. E. McDermond. Harrisonburg, Va.: Herald Press. 2011. Pp. 342. \$24.99, U.S.; \$28.99, Can.

Jay McDermond, a professor of Christian ministry and spirituality and the Hostetter chair of religious studies at Messiah College, provides an approachable, knowledgeable, and reliable guide to the tricky letters of 1, 2, and 3 John. This twenty-fourth volume in the Believers Church Bible Commentary series achieves the aims of the series, which are to flesh out "the original message of Scripture" for pastors, teachers, and leaders in churches and to suggest ongoing meaning for today (13). Although the series does not seek to foreground "debates among scholars" (13), McDermond is conversant with critical issues regarding this collection of New Testament literature and gives an accurate overview of some of the most important scholarship in Johannine literature in the past twenty years. He effectively demonstrates that proper belief in the nature of Jesus Christ is of central importance to 1, 2, and 3 John and that "basic theology and ethics are related" (15). However, as noted below, I find some of the methods and use of sources in this book problematic.

After a series foreword, the book moves to the author's preface, which includes a special tribute to one of McDermond's teachers, the late Gertrude Roten, professor emerita of Greek and New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. McDermond speaks warmly of Roten, saying, "Her knowledge of Greek, her insights on the letter's theology, and her gracious handling of students and their ideas made me want to give her my best," and "I can honestly say [her class on 1 John] was a highlight of my seminary career" (18). He acknowledges that Roten's influence extends into this commentary and his use of her unpublished manuscript on 1-3 John. (7) However, McDermond states in his preface...

[Access from your library](#)

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation

Source Citation

Brenneman, Laura L. "1, 2, 3 John. Believers Church Bible Commentary." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, vol. 87, no. 1, 2013, p. 122+. Accessed 6 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A316204089

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

[Access from your library](#)

Footer

- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

Written during a time of church schism that has left Christians confused and questioning their status before God, the author of 1, 2, 3 John argues that the Christian life has two fundamental markers: acceptance of Jesus Christ's role in God's plan of salvation, and the need to practice love in interactions with other believers. In his commentary, J. E. McDermond shows that that these two crucial concepts are as relevant and important today as they were back then. Praise for the Print Edition. McDermond is well informed on traditional and contemporary evaluations of the letters, well aware of their weaknesses, and well able to draw on their strengths. This is a commentary to use with confidence. —James D. G. Dunn, Emeritus Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Durham University. The Believers Church Bible Commentary Series makes available a new tool for basic Bible study. It is published for all who seek more fully to understand the original message of Scripture and its meaning for today Sunday school teachers, members of Bible study groups, students, pastors, and other seekers. I mention two formative beginnings and two institutional settings. My first Bible teacher was my father, John Elias, who obtained permission to begin the first Sunday school class in the Bergthaler Mennonite Church near Rosthern. A few years later, when I was enrolled as a student at the University of Saskatchewan, my roommates invited me to join a Bible study group. A free Bible Version and Commentary John's First Letter in EasyEnglish. John was in Ephesus when he wrote this letter. He sent it to the churches in that region. He wrote to the Christians in those churches. He knew them well and he loved them. He thought of them as his own family. So he spoke to them as if he was speaking to his own children. 4. The reasons why John wrote this letter. Some people in these churches believed wrong things. The people who had taught them these wrong things had been members of the church. However, they had moved away from the *faith and they had left the church (1 John 2:19). So John intended to correct these wrong ideas in his letter