

## Citation metadata

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## Main content

Article Preview :

The Work of Jesus Christ in Anabaptist Perspective: Essays in Honor of J. Denny Weaver. Edited by Alain Epp Weaver and Gerald J. Mast. Telford, Pa.: Cascadia Publishing House. 2008. \$26.95.

This is a festschrift for J. Denny Weaver, who has taught at Bluffton University for many years. A foreword by Myron Augsburger, a former president of Eastern Mennonite University, and an introduction by Gerald Mast, Weaver's longtime colleague at Bluffton, provide a good overview of the parts of the book (biblical studies, Christology, atonement and eschatology, ecclesiology, and Christian practice) and the essays in them. Some of the essays investigate Weaver's thought critically and some of the essays accept Weaver's work as a beginning place from which ideas can be extended. At points, the coherent thread of the book threatens to come unraveled, reminding the reader of the Monty Python skit "100 Yard Dash for People with No Sense of Direction." They may all begin at the same starting line but they quickly take off in different directions. Ironically, this is almost a virtue since the best essays in the book are the ones that do not spend much time on Weaver's writings (which is not to say that doing so is not worthwhile). To be perfectly clear: Weaver has a lot to offer Anabaptists in terms of stimulating reflections on our convictions, the stories that we tell of our beginnings as a people of God, and the way of life that we take up as a community.

What I wish the book did better is create a space for the essays to engage each other. For example, Ray Person accuses Weaver of being careless and idiosyncratic in his reading of the biblical texts but there is no way for Person to interact with Christopher Marshall, whose essay does the kind of work that Person is calling for and is neither careless nor idiosyncratic. Moreover, Ray Gingerich has a very good essay on Anabaptism in which he also begins to work out a theology...

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