

BOOK REVIEWS

Francis Young and David F. Ford, *Meaning and Truth in 2 Corinthians*, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987, pp. vii+289.

This book was first published in the United Kingdom in 1987 by SPCK, London in the series "Biblical Foundations in Theology" edited by James D. G. Dunn and James P. Mackey. The series was planned to bridge the gap between biblical scholarship and the larger enterprise of Christian theology. The editors had in mind to make "a distinctive and constructive contribution to current concerns about how, in the modern world, Christianity is to be lived as well as understood."

The Book *Meaning and Truth in 2 Corinthians* is the fruit of such a joint venture undertaken by a systematic theologian and a biblical scholar. The authors, Young and Ford, found it "challenging, exciting and overflowing in its potential" (p. 1). One may find the foundation of this venture in the firm belief of the authors that God in the very mode of His self-revelation in the Bible has submitted Himself to the changes and chances of human history and the fallibilities of humanity. In this light they look at Holy Scripture as "documents arising out of particular situations, then subject to changes and chances of textual transmission, deeply affected at every point by the contribution, of fallible human agents, their sins of commission and their sins of omission" (p. 6). Thus the authors have resolved to articulate and reflect upon what is involved in the process of interpretation of the 2 letter to *Corinthians* with the aim of enabling the reader to re-read or 'perform' the text with heightened awareness. According to them nobody can claim to produce the definitive interpretation of the letter. Its meaning is related to what Paul intended when he wrote it, but that does not exhaust it. One has to release that dead language of the text from its chains and enable the encounter with the 'Thou' - to use the expression of Martin Buber. Both the interpreter and the reader are invited to undergo a change by the response to the text.

The authors claim that both of them had been involved at every stage of the work. They together have given form to a new translation of the letter which appears as last chapter of the book. Young has contributed chapters 1-4; chapters 5-9 have Ford as the author.