

first chapter some Biblical texts are analysed in such a way as to show that the call to sanctity is not something reserved to the religious, but open to all. The second chapter brings out the concept of God in the Old Testament and New Testament. Here the author insists that it is on the Biblical concept of "Community" that any religious community should be patterned. The fourth chapter examines the meaning of the three vows of the religious in the light of the Bible. In the fifth and the last chapter the author tries to establish that religious life is a call to discipleship and prophethood. The author rightly discards the question of the superiority of religious life over the married life, explaining the religious life as a special public resolve to live the perfect Christian discipleship to which, however, all Christians are called. Some times the explanation of Biblical texts becomes so elaborate that it seems to go out of the way. In spite of this, the book provides ample material for the reader to reflect on the Biblical orientation of the religious life. This book with its analytical nature is, no doubt, will help the religious to reflect over the meaning and relevance of their state of life.

Lucius Nereparampil

David and Pat Alexander (eds)

Eerdman's Concise Bible handbook

(An illustrated book-by-book guide to the Bible)

Michigan: Grand Rapids, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1980, 384 pp.

This book with its special form and content is of great use to all who hunger and thirst for the knowledge of the Bible. It is a guide-book giving book-by-book introduction to the whole Bible. It has three parts. In the first part very general topics like "Jesus Christ and the Bible", "The Bible and Christian living", "Understanding the Bible", "The Bible and Society" are dealt with. In part II and part III book-by-book introductions are given on all the books of the Bible. There are many charts, drawings and maps to help the reader better understand the historical, geographical, cultural and political background of the Bible. The book is full of informations presented