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BOOK REVIEW

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DIE MISSIONSREDEN DER APOSTELGESCHICHTE. By Ulrich Wilckens. Neukirchen Kreis Moers: Neukirchener Verlag, 1961. Paper. 238 pages. Price not given.

This perceptive analysis of St. Luke's theological approach to the writing of church history is aimed primarily against the oversimplifications of Martin Dibelius and C. H. Dodd. Relying heavily on Hans Conzelmann's findings, Wilckens points out that the apostles are the vital link between the history of Jesus and the history of the church. He presents the latter in two phases, Jewish and Gentile. The form of the apostolic sermon varies with each phase. The basic theme of the sermons is that one who recognizes in Jesus God's salvation history as come to fulfillment and repents has a share in the redemption which is the product of God's plan. To mediate this understanding is the function of the apostolic witness. The apostolic sermons that Luke writes are directly geared to the implementation of this theological conception.

This systematic analysis is painstakingly done and should, with the help of its detailed bibliography, prove of great value to the serious student of the Book of Acts.

FREDERICK W. DANKER

DER POLITISCHE AUFTRAG DES PROTESTANTISMUS IN JAPAN. By Mitsuo Miyata. Hamburg: Herbert Reich Evangelischer Verlag, 1964. 95 pages. Paper. DM 3.80.

The political mission of Japanese Protestantism, Miyata holds, is its strong support of the peace movement. He gives a good summary of Japanese Christianity's 400-year history followed by an excellent survey of the Christian contribution to the deep post-war peace surge in Japan. Christian pacifists in Japan draw renewed inspiration from Uchimura Kanzo, founder of the Mukyokai,

the "Non-Church" movement. Uchimura began as an enthusiastic war hawk in the 1894 war on China; the Russo-Japanese war turned him into a disillusioned dove. He combined fervent nationalism with a pacifism inspired by his reading of the New Testament.

It is most appropriate that a Japanese Christian should address German Christians on their political duty. Both Germany and Japan were technologically advanced nations which capitulated to fascism partly out of their fear of communism. When the hour of testing came for the church in Japan, it was the Holiness churches and the Mukyokai that gave the stoutest testimony and showed the greatest readiness to suffer.

The institutionalized churches were more readily forced into line by the much stronger institutions of the state. The noninstitutionalized, diffused salt and leaven of the Mukyokai proved much more difficult to control.

These lectures contain very practical lessons for Christians in America, who, though they may reject pacifism, face the double threat of fascism at home and aggressive communism overseas. Here is equipment for the ministry of martyrdom.

WILLIAM J. DANKER

RUFE MICH AN! By Karl Barth. Zurich: EVZ-Verlag, 1965. Cloth. Price not given.

The first volume of sermons by Karl Barth preached in the prison in Basel, *Den Gefangenen Befreiung*, appeared promptly in an English translation. This successor is still in German. It is vastly exciting. Of the dozen brief sermons 10 have 1-verse, two 2-verse texts. But all employ an expository method. Yet what exposition! From the word go the hearer is struck, without condescension or faked camaraderie, completely as a person of anxieties, apathy, bondage which the preacher shares unabashedly. "Per-