



# Books in Review

## THIS LITTLE CHURCH HAD NONE

by Gary E. Gilley with Jay Wegter

EP Books, 236 pages, \$14.95

PFO director Gary Gilley has written his third in a series of books reviewing the dangerous situation of evangelicalism. This meticulous study shows the road now being traveled by the 21st century “new paradigm church.” The reader is first introduced (or reintroduced to those who have read his earlier books) to the seeker-sensitive movement (e.g., Willow Creek Community Church, Saddleback Community Church) and how its pragmatic approach of “doing church” has produced few mature and growing Christians. Rather, this success-driven model has yielded a breed of evangelicals who mirror the unsaved in morals, ethics, and values. Gilley also shows that while this market-driven movement has admitted its weaknesses, the solutions being tried are equally disturbing.

Gilley shows those espousing the “emergent conversation” are also in the “process of metamorphosis” into what some label “Ancient-Future faith.” But here too, it is a further drift from — not toward — Scripture. As this adjustment moves its followers to “Rome” and mysticism, Gilley points out that “the A-F movement sees the Reformation as an unnecessary schism perpetrated by Protestants” (pg. 43).

The mind-over-matter world of Rhonda Byrne (*The Secret*) and the “invasion of paganism” are also explored. While one might ask why such subject matter is germane to a discussion of evangelicalism, Gilley writes, “the concepts behind *The Secret*, and similar ‘new spirituality’ and Eastern teachings, have been making the rounds throughout various segments of Christianity for years” (pg. 77). The most prevalent component has been the prosperity gospel of Word Faith adherents. Popular pastor and best-selling author Joel Osteen is presented as the man responsible for taking the “name-it-and-claim-it” theology and making it palatable to the mainstream.

In the first section of the volume, Gilley also surveys the challenge of pragmatism and the onslaught of the new atheism against the Church.

While the first part of the book describes the “obstacles to truth,” the reader is not left without remedy. The second part is a call to a renewed confidence in the Word of God and to godly leadership. The final part, written primarily by Jay Wegter, focuses on evangelism. Wegter speaks to “the power of a Christian worldview in evangelism,” “sharing the Gospel in a culture of truth-suppressors,” and “recovering the neglected elements of the biblical Gospel.” His four “worldview questions” (pg. 186) are an excellent technique “to bring a person’s worldview to the surface so that it can be discussed” (pg. 185) and contrasted with God’s Word. Also provided are the biblical responses to these four questions (pg. 187). These are pages that should be read, reread, memorized, and put into frequent application by Christians.

*This Little Church Had None* is a proficient examination written by two men who are like unto the “sons of Issachar” (1 Chronicles 12:32). They have an understanding of the times and know what we ought to do. It is a perceptive and captivating analysis of the plight of the Church. It is a book, not just for concerned leadership of the Church, but for any Christian who desires “a church in search of the truth.”

—MKG

## 2012, THE BIBLE, AND THE END OF THE WORLD

by Mark Hitchcock

Harvest House Publishers, 184 pages, \$12.99

The recent disaster film *2012* popularized the beliefs that some in our culture, especially within the New Age movement, hold a 2012 world apocalypse. How widespread are these notions and why do some people believe them?

Mark Hitchcock is well-suited to explore this popular theory of a possible 2012 doomsday for the earth. Not only is Hitchcock a pastor and a Bible prophecy teacher, he also holds an earned Ph.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has authored numerous books on Bible prophecy, including *The Complete Book of Bible Prophecy*.

In the book’s Introduction, Hitchcock explains how he came to write this book: “In 2007 I was watching a news

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