The most-read Century book reviews

December 30, 2014

Here are the Century book reviews that got read the most online this year.

- **1)** Larry Hurtado reviews Bart Ehrman: Ehrman's conclusions aren't novel to anyone familiar with historical scholarship on Christology. But those aren't the readers he has in mind.
- **2)** Tony Jones reviews Matthew Vines and Ken Wilson: Can one be both an evangelical and affirming of same-sex relationships? Into this minefield have stepped two new voices, one younger and one older.
- **3) James Bratt reviews D. G. Hart:** Some classic works on the origins of modernity give pride of place to Calvinism. Hart will have none of it.
- **4)** Heidi Haverkamp reviews Verlee Copeland and Dale Rosenberger: The mainline has struggled to express an ethics or spirituality of sexuality. Copeland and Rosenberger seek to fill that gap.
- **5)** <u>Charles Scriven reviews Brian McLaren</u>: Academics may find no theological breakthrough in McLaren's latest book, but the ones who care about church life may still do a double take.
- **6)** Amy Frykholm reviews Amy DeRogatis: The old stereotype is that evangelicals are unable or unwilling to talk about sex. Lately, the reality is the opposite.
- 7) John Turner reviews Charles Marsh: Marsh brings readers closer to Dietrich Bonhoeffer than, at the very least, any prior biographer writing in English.
- 8) <u>David Wood reviews Jason Byassee and Roger Owens's edited volume on Eugene Peterson</u>: To Peterson, a church is not a demarcated zone of idealized community. The potential for misdirection and distraction abounds.
- **9)** Alexandra Brown reviews N. T. Wright: Wright aims to show how Paul's story of the crucified and risen Messiah is at the same time the story of Israel rescued

from extended exile.

- **10)** John Haught reviews Elizabeth Johnson: Johnson shows how biblically informed faith comes alive when we look at the world through the lens of Darwin's *Origin of Species*.
- **11)** <u>Katherine Willis Pershey reviews Micha Boyett</u>: Boyett writes tenderly about her Southern Baptist background, even as she grafts herself into a more liturgical expression of the faith.
- **12)** Richard Lischer reviews Julian Barnes: Barnes's attempt to console himself with "It's just the universe doing its stuff" recalls C.S. Lewis's recoil from the "goodness" of God.
- **13)** Stanley Hauerwas reviews Gerhard Lohfink: In these short talks, Lohfink revisits themes from *Jesus and Community*. His account of Jesus is determinatively eschatological.
- **14)** <u>Ted Peters reviews Ian McFarland</u>: McFarland's book on the doctrine of creation is a book about nothing. It has a lot to say about it.