



*A Multitude of Blessings: A Christian Approach to Religious Diversity*

Cynthia M. Campbell

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Reviewed by Dr. Chang Han Kim

Cynthia Campbell has authored a welcome addition to the growing number of books on interreligious dialogue. She not only makes good use of existing scholarship on religious pluralism, but also offers her own biblical and theological understanding of the subject.

The five chapters of this volume address a number of important issues: the world, God, Christ, the Spirit, and humanity. Being acutely aware of religious diversity, Campbell seeks a balanced Christian attitude towards other religions. In other words, her approach does justice to the uniqueness and the openness of Christian beliefs.

First of all, Campbell discusses the two viewpoints that have come to dominate the area of religious pluralism: the exclusivist idea that “Jesus is the one and only way to God and to salvation” (p. 11), and the pluralist notion that “[t]here are many paths, but we are all climbing the same mountain” (p. 17). Second, she considers the Old Testament to be an expression of the human understanding of God. Because this portion of scripture leaves room for the religious “other,” it permits us to see the “larger plan or purposes of God” (p. 41). Third, this idea is related to Jesus’ offer of salvation to religious “others”; thus one does not lose what is distinctive in the Christian faith. Fourth, the love of God and Christ for all people is manifested in the work of the Spirit. This understanding is theological as well as practical, and therefore is profoundly relevant for missiology. Finally, she believes that these core biblical and theological concepts can enable Christians to treat other religions with love and respect. Working together “for the common good” (p. 96), Campbell suggests, will allow Christians to bear witness to the good news of the gospel.

While *A Multitude of Blessings* is an insightful introduction to interreligious dialogue, it could have been enhanced by a more detailed discussion of non-Christian religious beliefs. This would have allowed the author to go beyond Christian apologetics and engage in serious and informed dialogue.