

**The Gospel of John**

by F. F. Bruce

(Basingstoke: Pickering and Inglis, 1983. 425 pp. pb. £6.95)

Reminiscent of his earlier expositions of *Ephesians* (1961) and the *Epistles of John* (1975), this book is intended for the Christian reader interested in serious Bible study, but not for the professional student. It began its life thirty years ago as a series of expository articles which were interrupted and delayed in various ways until they were completed in the December 1982 issue of *Harvester*. This piecemeal and protracted production Prof. Bruce has well hidden by skilful editing of the final draft. The result reads smoothly, as one might expect of anything from

his pen. It focuses scant attention on the Johannine community or on other modern preoccupations, but settles down to straightforward exposition of the text as it stands. The relatively few notes are invariably apposite and helpful.

The exposition is characterized by sane judgment and mature reflection. Inevitably there are places where one might opt for a different interpretation. For instance, despite Prof. Bruce's sure touch in following the line of thought in John 6, it is doubtful if his interpretation of 6:37 is the most natural: H. Thyen has argued, rather convincingly, that this verse is a litotes that affirms not Jesus' willingness to welcome would-be disciples, but his determination to preserve those who are his.

If this book does not push back the frontiers, it is nevertheless exactly the sort of work one likes to put into the hands of ordinary Christians who want to know their Bibles better.

*Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

D. A. CARSON