

Book Review:

W. Robert Godfrey, An Unexpected Journey – Discovering Reformed Christianity (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2004), Paperback, 150 pages. \$9.99

The genre of spiritual autobiography has long been a favorite in the history of the Church as a means of presenting Biblical truth in the context of concrete, real-life experience. Classics like Augustine's *Confessions*, Bunyan's *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* and C.S. Lewis's *Surprised by Joy* offer many readers (perhaps especially those who don't prefer to pick up a thousand-page tome of systematic theology) an easily-accessible format to be confronted by the claims of Christianity. Bob Godfrey's "Unexpected Journey" employs this method to present a gentle but unapologetic apologetic for Reformed Christianity.

Godfrey's stated goal is "that some reflection on my experience in coming to Reformed Christianity from the outside might clarify Calvinism's value and vitality on a personal level" (p.11). He accomplishes this by recording his initial introduction to a Dutch Reformed Church in High School, and then charting his growing knowledge and appreciation for Calvinism throughout life's experiences to his present calling as President of Westminster Theological Seminary in California. In reality though, the biographical content of the book is incidental to the main thrust, which is to present a winsome endorsement of Reformed theology to an outsider. In 13 brief and easily-digested chapters, different aspects of the Reformed faith are illustrated from the author's experience, but more importantly, from the Scripture passage which heads each chapter. The Reformed understanding of topics such as the Sovereignty of God, Spiritual Disciplines, Assurance, Callings, History, Law and Spirit, and Worship, are all attractively presented and persuasively argued; the latter containing a pleasant surprise in a warm commendation of psalm-singing (including an honorable mention of the RPCNA!).

Godfrey's book will prove excellent "ice-breaker" material to give away to anyone interested in the Reformed faith, and a good starting point for enquirers to stimulate further study. To that end, a suggested bibliography (in addition to reading materials mentioned in the text that impacted the author's spiritual journey) may have been a useful appendix for newcomers wishing to take the next step.

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