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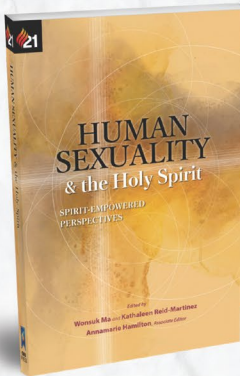
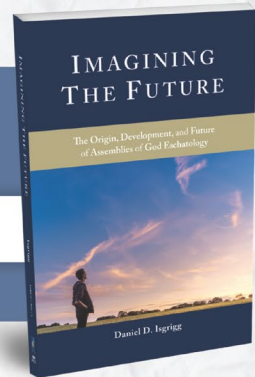
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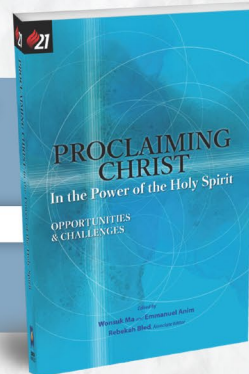
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A Theology of Hope: Contextual Perspectives in Korean

Pentecostalism. By Sang Yun Lee. Baguio City, Philippines: Asia Pacific Theological Seminary Press, 2018. xiv + 271 pp.

Sang Yun Lee teaches at Hansei University in Korea. This book is a published version of the Ph.D. dissertation he wrote at the University of Birmingham, UK. Lee's book offers unique insight into the social and cultural context in which Pastor David Yonggi Cho's teaching became a movement within Korea. Lee examines the Threefold Blessings taught by Pastor David Yonggi Cho—salvation, financial prosperity, and healing—as a contextual hope in the Korean Pentecostal context. Lee argues that since the Threefold Blessings emerged in the middle of the twentieth century and some decades have passed, it needs to be re-examined, recontextualized, and reapplied to be relevant to Korean Pentecostals in their contemporary context.

The book's first section discusses the Threefold Blessings in the Korean context. The next seven chapters provide an overview of the history of Korean Pentecostalism. Lee notes how most Koreans suffered severe poverty and sickness after the Korean War. Lee states that the message of the Threefold Blessings became an effective contextualizing means of bringing Pentecostalism into Korea. Pentecostalism numerically and spiritually multiplied in Korea as a result (69). The text provides a thorough discussion on the Threefold Blessings. Lee extends the discussion on the Threefold Blessing beyond only interacting with Moltmann's theology of hope, which developed in Germany after World War Two, to show the Threefold Blessing's contribution towards church growth (109). Lee argues that Korea was one of the strongest Buddhist and Confucian countries in Asian history. Still, Lee states that due to Korean disillusionment with Buddhism and Confucianism, "Christianity and Pentecostalism grew remarkably as a source of hope in desperate and confusing situations" (155). Lee concludes the book by arguing that the Threefold Blessings must continue to be contextualized to survive in Korea's evolving society, politics, and economics (187).

A Theology of Hope wrestles with contextual issues in Korean Pentecostalism, successfully moving the discussion from Western-centric to Korean theological dynamics. The book also considers the negative and the positive aspects of Threefold Blessing theology. Readers looking for a set of principles for the Threefold Blessing will not find easy answers in this book. Readers who will benefit from *A Theology of Hope* include those who want to understand Korean Pentecostalism better,

those interested in contextual perspectives, and those wanting to think about a theology of hope through an Eastern lens rather than an exclusively Western one.

One weakness of this book is that the data presented represents a specific case study of Yonggi Cho and Yoido Full Gospel Church that does not correspond to all other ministries in Korea. Korean Pentecostalism is highly diverse. Some Christians are based in international denominations, while others prioritize the local church as self-governing and self-theologizing. Overall, this book deserves widespread attention, especially from the Western theological community. The book is a Korean theology of the Threefold Blessing, from the church growth perspective and as a theology of hope.

Robert S. Oh is Visiting Scholar at Cambodia Presbyterian Theological Institute in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.