

Silenced Cries: A Study of Abortion

by Aaron Erhardt, Erhardt Publications, 2009, paperback, 81 pages, E91526, \$9.95.

Silenced Cries by Aaron Erhardt is not a book to be read lightly or quickly. It is a very disturbing book and likely will require the reader to stop to think at several points along the way. The book confronts the culture of life and death in our country as it relates to the practice of abortion. When I say it is disturbing, I do not mean it should not be read, only that it is not an enjoyable book to read.

Erhardt takes us to places we do not want to go. Through his writing, we travel inside an abortion clinic to witness what happens during and after this horrific procedure. If you are unfamiliar with these places and practices, these chapters will no doubt leave you feeling very disturbed.

From the clinic, Erhardt takes us to the steps of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to listen to the politics of this issue. Again, for many Christians this is an uncomfortable mixing of religion and legislation. Finally, Erhardt brings us back to the pages of Scripture and shows us God's view of the murder of innocent children.

Although the book is disturbing, it is necessary for Christians to read about abortion and understand this very important issue. Erhardt makes it clear that we cannot hide our faces

from the reality of this sin and that we must do all we can to speak for those who have no voice.

Although I cannot say I enjoyed reading *Silenced Cries*, I can say that my eyes and my heart were opened to a very pertinent and important issue in our culture. To look at the darker side of humanity is to see just how far sin can take us from the plan of God. We can also see the incredible opportunities that exist for us to make a difference by being salt and light to our world. (Reviewed by David Salisbury, Hohenwald, Tenn.)

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

by Cougan Collins, 2009, paperback, 200 pages, C05140, \$9.99.

Although the necessity of faith and repentance are seldom seriously questioned by religionists, baptism frequently is – particularly in the Protestant community. Like the poor, those who oppose baptism as essential for man's salvation will always be with us. With these individuals in mind, Cougan Collins crafted *Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?*, a helpful handbook on perhaps the Bible's most disputed command.

Collins' aim is not to navigate uncharted waters. Rather, the author has provided a one-volume compendium containing, as one reviewer described it, "more specifics than any other [book] I have read from." Those who make a careful study of Collins'

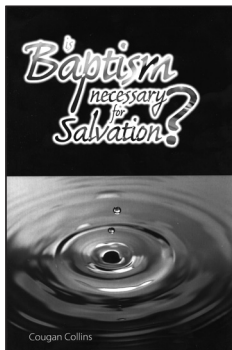
book will readily see the value it holds.

Although its 14 chapters are not further subdivided, the book lends itself to a threefold categorization. The first eight chapters chronicle various incidences of conversion in the New Testament, from Jesus' nighttime interview with Nicodemus to Paul's encounter with the twelve at Ephesus.

The next three chapters are devoted to thematic studies such as "buried with Christ," "baptism for the dead" and baptism as an "antitype." In the final three chapters, which are among the most valuable, Collins answers common objections to baptism and provides a thorough word study on the subject, followed by quotations from the "church fathers."

Of special interest to some will be the "side discussions" Collins incorporates into the text, including a defense of the authenticity of Mark 16:9-20 and a discussion of the Greek preposition *eis*. Throughout, the author shows a ready familiarity with the positions of church historians, both ancient and modern.

The strength of the volume is not its originality – baptism has been discussed and debated for years. Rather, in a simple and straightforward fashion, the author has provided a well-researched work that could replace two or three larger volumes at once on the bookshelf. (Reviewed by Brandon Renfroe, Ashville, Ala.)



Send your reviews of books or DVDs to "Reviews," Gospel Advocate, 1006 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210; fax 615-254-7411; e-mail gaeditorial@gospeladvocate.com. Most books and DVDs reviewed are available at Christian bookstores or by calling 1-800-251-8446.