Christ." But now note, "And this I pray...." You cannot make your children love God. You cannot make that love abound. But you can pray that God will give it, and that He will make it abound into the knowledge and judgment. And having disciplined the child, we should pray for a blessing upon it in the child's presence. The child must see that we take the matter to God in prayer.

And the fruit will be twofold. We will be cultivating thankfulness in the children as God is pleased to use our work. And do not forget that prayer is the chief part of thankfulness. But then we will also go home with peace of mind. The day may have been a rough one. Some children will resist and give us a rough time. But taking it to God in prayer, and leaving the outcome to the almighty power of the Holy Spirit, we can go home with peace of mind, and with thankfulness for the privilege of training His precious jewels in thankfulness.

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Book Reviews

Calvin and the Anabaptist Radi- twentieth century. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Reformation. Rapids, MI, 338 pages, paper.

be her attitude toward the state Calvin. under whom she lives? How is the

They are cals, by Willem Balke, translated questions which concerned God's by William J. Heynen; William B. people during the age of the Willem Balke's book, Calvin and the Anabaptist (Reviewed by P. VanDer Schaaf.) Radicals shows how these ques-What is the true church of tions were posed by the Anabap-Christ in this world? How is she tists, who represented the radical to be recognized? How must she wing of the Reformation, and live in the world, and what must how they were answered by John

The book examines the image Scripture rightly to be inter- that Calvin had of the Anabaptists preted? These are not dead issues, and of their doctrines. The first but lively questions which God's half of the book examines the people in every age must answer personal contact that Calvin had in faith. They are a concern of with the Anabaptists beginning Reformed Christians living in the with the time in which the first

edition of the Institutes appeared, through Calvin's stay in the city of Strassburg and the final period of his life in Geneva. The second half of the book is a systematic study of Calvin's views of Anabaptists' doctrines and of the doctrines that Calvin taught in opposition to the Anabaptists. The author contrasts the teachings of Calvin and the Anabaptists on the doctrines of the church, the relationship between the church and the world, hermeneutics and the proper understanding of Scripture, Christology, and eschatology.

The book has several things to commend it. It contains interesting narratives of personal contacts that Calvin and other Reformers had with Anabaptists. The author's fair and scholarly evaluation of Anabaptist teachings makes the book a valuable introduction to the major doctrines of the radical reformers. Most valuable is the author's vindication of Calvin over against the

Anabaptists. So much of what is written on the great reformer of Geneva emphasizes the vitriolic style of his writing or the inflexibility of his personality. often misses even the attempt to be fair with Calvin much less favorable to him. Balke's evaluations of Calvin's answers to the Anabaptist challenge show Calvin's insights to be as important to the Reformed churches in our day as they were to the church of the Reformation.

The book was originally published in Dutch and is the author's doctor's thesis. In places it reads like a doctor's thesis. Also, any reader well acquainted Calvin's teachings will find much in the book that he already knows. Still, the book's value lies in the contrasts and comparisons that the author makes between two of the major wings of the Reformation. It is well worth reading for anyone who must teach the history of that era.

The Wheels of Heaven by David E. Lawrence. Crossway Books; Westchester, Illinois, \$4.95, 139 pages, paper.

(Reviewed by G. VanDer Schaaf.)

The Wheels of Heaven is a science-fiction novel. It employs a stock sci-fi plot: a scientist, Albert Blake, shrinks so that the secret workings of the subatomic world are revealed to him. What he learns is so astounding, so contrary to contemporary scientific canon, that he remains silent for

almost 40 years before daring to tell his story to a skeptical world.

The "shrinking man" plot is standard sci-fi stuff. In his book, however, Lawrence presents it with a twist. What scientist Blake discovers is that each and every electron in the cosmos is directed by creatures (never identified) who are under the control of God. By this control of the building blocks of all matter, God works His sovereign will throughout the universe.

Lawrence is the chairman of the Science Department of Madison County High School in Madison, Virginia and is a member of a Baptist church in that city. The former explains why, perhaps, The Wheels of Heaven shows an unnatural, stilted style, reminding me of a scientific monograph rewritten for the general public. The latter accounts for the fundamentalist overtones in the book: a passing

reference to a free will decision to serve the Creator and, throughout the book, the underlying assumption (shared by fundamentalist science texts) that scriptural accounts of creation can be profitably defended by appeals to science.

The Wheels of Heaven is a curious book, and I recommend it only at that level: a curiosity piece.

The Valiant Papers by Calvin Miller. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, \$5.95, 155 pp., paper.

(Reviewed by G. VanDer Schaaf.)

In C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters, a senior tempter corresponds with a junior devil. In The Valiant Papers, a guardian angel files his final report to the central office. If the premise of this type of literature is offensive to the reader, by all means stay away from this book.

Every Reformed reader has a standard by which he evaluates what he reads. That standard is the Word. This standard, always the same, is applied differently to different types of literature. When I read "Christian fiction," I read with different expectations, different questions, different criteria of acceptability than when I read "secular fiction." One of these criteria, or questions, is "How much bad theology can be present in a story before I can no

longer enjoy it? What is the limit?" This limit will be different for each reader. My limit was reached in *The Valiant Papers*.

This is not to say that The Valiant Papers is a dull, uninteresting book. Calvin Miller is a wordsmith of considerable talent; he is in full command of the language, as the brief poems at the end of each chapter give evidence. Too, Mr. Miller has a clear eye regarding the problems and pitfalls of life in 20th century America. It is Miller's opinions of what God wills for mankind and how God accomplishes – or fails to accomplish - that will, as voiced through angel Valiant, that spoil the story for me. Arminianism is everywhere, Universalism permeates every page, and what might have been an enjoyable book is finally only a disappointment.