

*The Didache: A Commentary.* By Kurt Niederwimmer. Translated by Linda M. Maloney and edited by Harold W. Attridge. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998, xxvii + 288 pp., n.p.

The Hermeneia series is well-known for its technical expertise in which the biblical text is examined critically and primary and secondary sources are referenced extensively. The Hermeneia series is also including commentaries on the Apostolic Fathers, and this volume represents the work of Kurt Niederwimmer on the *Didache*. Niederwimmer's introduction treats the following matters with reference to the *Didache*: its structure and genre, references to the work in other historical sources, the manuscript tradition, the early versions that translated the work, its relationship to the *Apostolic Constitutions*, the relationship between the *Didache* and the "Two Ways" tradition, and a reconstruction of the origin of the work. The discussions on these matters are technical and thorough and would be of significant interest to specialists. Two matters warrant comment here. Virtually all scholars date the *Didache* very early, and Niederwimmer opts for a date between A.D. 110-120. Other scholars, however, date the document even earlier. J. P. Audet posits a date of A.D. 70, and Michael Holmes suspects that it was written by at least A.D. 80. Assigning a date is difficult since the *Didache* was stitched together from various sources. It is also clear that some portions of the work draw on gospel tradition, particularly the gospel of Matthew. The commentary examines the text carefully from a critical point of view, interacting with other interpretations. As with most volumes in the Hermeneia series, the theology of the document is not the focus of

the commentary. If the reader desires a technical and thorough discussion of the text, then this volume will serve admirably.

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