

## Forewords

*Ron Oastler*

*Former National President of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship in Australia and Assemblies of God Lay Pastor*

Kent Hodge's coverage here of the 'Fundamentals of the Christian Faith' is both pertinent and insightful. It is at the same time both intellectual and spiritual...both provocative and encouraging. More than this however, through its pages Kent is saying to the reader, "Magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together." by returning to an understanding of the truth and simplicity of the gospel. This work is valuable for reading, review and reference – for pastors, teachers and lay people alike.

Having known and respected Kent and his wife Ruth from their youth, I continue to be encouraged by their absolute commitment to God and to preaching and teaching the gospel. I am not surprised that Kent was inspired to write this particular work. Kent's personal integrity is founded on the integrity of the scriptures. This work is evidence, and as an apologist of the word of God he has achieved a wider objective.

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*Phil Pringle*

*President C3 Church  
Sydney, Australia*

Kent and Ruth were a part of the C3 Church movement in its early years and are graduates of our Bible College. God powerfully impacted their lives and they went out from here to Africa with a passion to reach many with the love of Jesus. I have observed their many years of fruitful ministry in Nigeria, and am delighted with the churches that have been planted all over Africa as a result. I pray and know that the Lord will use this excellent book to raise up many more labourers to bring many people into eternal life. I trust that those that read this book will catch the spirit of faith that is upon Kent and Ruth and do extraordinary things in God's service.

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*Rev T.E. Razack*

*Provost CFI  
Jos, Nigeria*

As a student I met with Dr. Hodge and his family about sixteen years ago at All Nations for Christ in Benin City. Since then I have received a warm welcome to become a member of his family. He is a friend, mentor, elder brother and partner in the kingdom of God. We have served the Lord both in Nigeria and out of Nigeria together. I do enjoy uncommon fellowship with him and members of his family. We are currently working together at Jos in the northern part of Nigeria. This book is informative and encouraging. It provides the reader with biblical theological views on almost all basic important subjects in the Christian faith. Therefore, I strongly recommend it to all bible students, pastors, church workers, theologians and Christians in general.

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*Rev Peter Linnecar*

*Peniel Church  
Brentwood, UK*

I have always known Kent Hodge to be an entirely practical Christian. This book is relevant to anyone who wishes to have the right foundation in life and an understanding of how God develops an individual to fulfil His purposes. It is a series of thought through essentials of the Christian faith and is absolutely ideal for use as a fundamental textbook of Christianity, totally applicable to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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*Pastor Jim Garlick  
River City Christian Church  
Hobart Tasmania*

It is my pleasure to write a short forward to this book on behalf of my dear friend Kent Hodge who I have known and respected for many years. Kent has a keen knowledge of the church in the West and also Africa. He has seen the imbalances and apathy that has gripped a lot of the church in Australia and England, with their false revivals and the prosperity gospel centred around the happiness of the believer, against the extremes of the churches in Africa who have tendered to mix local superstitions with so called anointings, which have not set the people free as promised in the gospel message alone.

It is with a passion for the simple yet profoundly powerful gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that Kent has written this book as a tool for both camps. We may not agree with every point, but we can agree that this was born out of Kent's many years experience on the mission fields of Africa and from his frequent trips in the West. His heart has ached to see the centrality of Christ once again become pre-eminent.

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*Revd. Dr. William Kay  
Director of the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies and Reader in Practical Theology,  
School of Theology and Religious Studies, Bangor University, Wales. Editor of the Journal of the  
European Pentecostal Theological Association, currently available from Paternoster Press.*

Dr. Kent Hodge gives us a study book that covers an enormous range of topics in theology and history. His carefully constructed text is presented in a way that students will be able to understand and which will stimulate learning. Readers are taken on a long and valuable journey from evangelical foundations to modern education and the practicalities of Christian living. I commend it to you.

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*Samuel Thorpe, MA, PhD, AphS  
Professor of Philosophy and Theological Studies  
Oral Roberts University  
Tulsa, USA*

Dr Kent Hodge's book provides a great service to the church and those who minister to the people of God, by discussing the basic doctrines of biblical theology in ways that people can understand and apply to their Christian lives. Theologians often obscure and complicate our dearest truths and traditions when a clear and decisive approach to these subjects, such as Dr Hodge provides, goes a long way towards helping people realize the love and care that God demonstrates daily to us. Good solid theology like this keeps Christians from the errors perpetuated by worldly philosophies and false theologies, so prevalent in these days.

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*Dr. Andrew Corbett  
President of ICI Theological College Australia  
Pastor of Legana Christian Church*

Kent Hodge has once again demonstrated his love for God and His word by the effort he has put into this volume. Readers will be challenged by Dr Hodge's sometimes strong views, but will never fail to sense the passion for Christ, His Kingdom, His Mission as the motivation for being so forthright. He is one of the few Bible scholars in the world today who is prepared to put his life on the line for the convictions that he holds regarding the Great Commission as the greatest opportunity that believers have for giving Jesus Christ the greatest glory. He presents the Reformed view of Christianity and argues that this is completely compatible with what has become known as "Pentecostalism". He argues that the baptism in the Holy Spirit has more to do with entering the New Covenant as a son of God than it does with *spiritual gift surveys*. He then sets out to show how the new birth affects every aspect of the believer's life. I commend this volume to the reader for their careful consideration.

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Dr. Musa A. B. Gaiya  
Professor of Church History  
University of Jos, Nigeria

*Christ in You: An Introduction to the New Covenant and Christian Life* is an encyclopaedic theological treatise. It covers all the essentials of theology. Uniquely, the book treats evangelical, contemporary and Pentecostal theologies. The book also discusses theological education and the theology of mission. This is a welcome volume, especially for our theological schools and department of religious studies of Nigeria's burgeoning universities. Kent Hodge treats a wide range of subjects concisely and simply. It is an easy to read book.

It is also a timely book. It has come at a time when modern Pentecostal preaching and writing in Nigeria are not rooted in biblical theology. Most Pentecostal leaders are not trained theologically, little wonder they teach and preach, what I call, pedestrian theology - a theology which sources from what itches the man on the street. This explains the swelling in number of attendance at these Pentecostal churches in Nigeria: people go to hear how all their problems can be solved. This kind of teaching perpetuates what is generally said about African Christianity, an "inch-deep Christianity". There is a serious need for the teaching of the theology of the cross in Africa to balance the overemphasis on the theology of health and wealth.

Theology has grown from the early church to the present, thus the study of this history is important. I see this kind of study in *Christ in You*. Historical theology should be an important component of theological education in Africa. Pentecostal theology has its roots in orthodoxy. The greatest Pentecostal theologian and the last to write in Greek, to my mind, was the Punic born Carthaginian Tertullian, yet his writings were rooted and coexisted with the mainstream theological traditions of his days. Tertullian invented the word trinity to describe the relationship between the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but also wrote in defence of Montanism.

Hodge has written this book with a passion for mission and evangelism. I consider mission and evangelism the ultimate goal of theological education. However, mission and evangelism are least in the priorities of contemporary charismatic/Pentecostal churches in Africa. What we see often is a lot of emphasis on the construction of mega churches and the enrichment of the president and founder of such churches. Since starting a church has become a lucrative business, new churches emerge almost daily in our cities. It may be startling to look at what budget percentage these churches commit for social services at reducing poverty among its members.

I believe Hodge's *Christ in You* will serve as a reference book in theological departments and university libraries in Nigeria and in Africa for a long time.

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