

authority, they were under no obligation to acquiesce to unlawful commands. He then cites a number of divines from the Mother Country who made such arguments. Steward does admit, though, that most Church of England ministers supported passive obedience in all cases whatsoever, whereas most of Britain's dissenting clergy backed the colonists. Although the author states that liberal as well as orthodox dissenters supported the American cause, he does not adequately explain this dichotomy.

Gary Steward's *Justifying Revolution* joins a growing number of insightful monographs by scholars such as Daniel Dreisbach and Mark David Hall, which not only articulate the deeper historical and biblical roots of American resistance, but which also argue for the centrality of religion during the nation's founding era. Steward's prose is clear and accessible, although this writer thinks he tended to overquote his sources when he could have cited them in his own words. The research notes are thorough and provide several interesting insights into his evidence and argument. In sum, *Justifying Revolution* is a deeply researched volume that specialists in the American Revolution will find well worth reading.

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***Every Leaf, Line, and Letter: Evangelicals and the Bible from the 1730s to the Present.* Edited by Timothy Larsen. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. 328 pp. \$36.00 paperback.**

David Bebbington, in his classic book, *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s* (1989) argued the diverse and amorphous movement called Evangelicalism was characterized by four ideas: the Bible, the cross, conversion, and activism. This became known as the "Bebbington Quadrilateral." *Every Leaf, Line, and Letter*, collection of twelve essays, by former students and colleagues, began as conference to honor David Bebbington. Clearly, his ideas have been fertile ground for a rich, diverse, and expanding fields of scholarly research and inquiry. Of the four elements of the "Quadrilateral," the Bible is arguably the most important in the lives and faiths of Evangelicals. All Evangelicals have been united by their common belief that the Bible is the inspired word of God. However, the essays in this volume complicate the picture. How evangelical interpret the Bible is diverse and varied. Changing historical circumstances and needs alter the way they interpreted the Bible and they have often marshalled the Bible to conflicting ends.

For example, typological and figural interpretations, which was more line with medieval hermeneutics, was central to Jonathan Edwards interpretation of the Bible. Interestingly, later Evangelicals are often associated with a more literal interpretations and a ridged biblicism. Evangelicals of the same era did not agree on the methods of hermeneutics. Jonathan Edwards and John Erksine, both evangelicals of the eighteenth century, had conflicting views on the nature of free will. Their differences are rooted in the different ways they incorporated enlightenment ideas into their biblical hermeneutics. In the United States, during the 19th century, tragically, many interpreted the Bible

to defend slavery and racism. However, Denmark Veysey used the Bible to condemn slavery. Francis Grimke interpreted the Bible to condemn lynching. And yet the Bible has also been used in the 21st century to defend a version of white Christian nationalism that minimized this history of slavery and the role of people of color in the history of the United States.

The history of evangelical uses of the Bible is complicated, diverse, and fascinating. Every individual essay in this volume is interesting. However, as a collection, to use as cliché, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

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***Pious Ambitions: Sally Merriam Wait's Mission South, 1813-1831.* By Mary Tribble. America's Baptist Series, Keith Harper, Editor. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2021. xv+ 242 pp. \$25.00 cloth; \$25.00 pdf.**

Pious Ambitions is a biography of the life of Sally Merriam Wait, a nineteenth century evangelical New England woman who becomes the wife of the Reverend Samuel Wait, the first president of what would become Wake Forest University. The biography situates Sally Wait amidst some of the most important movements and moments of the nineteenth century and reveals her to be far more than the helpmeet of a well-known educational figure. As readers will discover, the life of Sally Wait is a powerful example of how a bright, ambitious, devout woman confronted the limited opportunities and significant obstacles her sex faced in antebellum America. Tribble's coverage begins with a retelling of Sally's conversion experience as a member of a small Vermont evangelical community and follows her life throughout her courtship and marriage to Samuel Wait, a fellow New England evangelical and aspiring minister. The Wait's journey together, often tragically spent apart for what amounts to many years of their early-married life, takes the reader from rural New England to Samuel's experiences with Columbia College in Washington, D.C. before ultimately following the couple on their missionary call to rural, antebellum North Carolina. The book's title, *Pious Ambitions*, reveals the central theme of Sally's life experience. She is a smart, deeply committed Christian who aspires to make meaningful contributions to God's kingdom. Sally deeply admired the missionary work of Ann Hasseltine Judson in Asia and longed to make similar contributions but instead found herself restrained by the tenets of faith to which she herself adhered. Her commitment to the evangelical ideals about a woman's role within marriage forced Sally to curtail her own ambitions in order to support Samuel's call to ministry. Her compliance, albeit not without input and at times expressed frustration, with the demands of Samuel's calling pulled Sally into creative entrepreneurial endeavors, travels within the rapidly expanding and changing United States, direct contact with the institution of slavery, and decision-making that was in direct contradiction to her New England family's wishes. Tribble skillfully embeds these aspects of Sally's life within the contexts of the Second Great Awakening, the