

*Evolution and
Christian Hope*
Ernst Benz

*Man's Concept of the Future,
from the Early Fathers to
Teilhard de Chardin*

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A fascinating history of Western thought on the concepts of evolution and utopia—from the earliest Christian hopes for a better world to the latest scientific theories of mankind's future.

Evolution and Christian Hope

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At odds with the theology that views man as a fully developed being placed into a fully developed world, like a tenant into a prefabricated new apartment, science decrees that man, as a species, is part of an immeasurably long chain of development, even now undergoing continuing evolution. Noted theologian Dr. Ernst Benz demonstrates that this image of changing man in a changing world, a world transformed by man, is one which theology can no longer ignore.

Beginning with the earliest Christian hopes for the coming of the kingdom, the author traces man's changing concepts of the future, concluding with the widely acclaimed ideas of Teilhard de Chardin, hailed by some

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EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIAN HOPE:

*Man's Concept of the
Future from the Early Fathers to
Teilhard de Chardin*

ERNST BENZ

*Translated from the German by
Heinz G. Frank*

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as a modern Aquinas. From St. Augustine and other medieval Christian theologians and philosophers, including some never before analyzed in English literature, the author progresses to Darwin, Marx and Nietzsche, highlighting the effects of Darwin's theory and the Christian interpretation of evolution in Anglo-Saxon theology.

EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIAN HOPE brilliantly reveals for all that, contrary to popular opinion, the concept of evolution is not opposed to basic Christian thinking, but rather is a logical result of Christian hope for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Ernst Benz, Professor of Church and Dogmatic History and Director of the Ecumenical Institute at the University of Marburg, Germany, is rapidly gaining recognition as an outstanding scholar in the United States and throughout Europe. Author of *The Eastern Orthodox Church* and *Buddhism or Communism: Which Holds the Future of Asia?*, Dr. Benz was elected a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, in 1965. He lives in Marburg-on-Lahn, Germany.

"One of the most interesting books to come to my hand in a long time...."—Franklin H. Littell

Evolution and Christian Hope

Ernst Benz

During a period when theologians, concerned with the problem of existential decision in the present, had forgotten to inquire into the meaning of the future, the natural sciences, on their own behalf, have asked the question of man's future with an intensity that is astounding—because, indeed, our present knowledge of man's past development forces the question of mankind's future right into the foreground.

Hope was the original impulse of theology. But it abandoned it to secular movements like Marxism and communism. Instead, it became absorbed in contemplating the relationship between existence and death and became fascinated by the problems of evil and original sin. Anthropology, a natural science, is now restoring hope to its rightful place.