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He Could Not Do Otherwise: Bishop Lajos Ordass, 1901-1978

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Despite my criticisms of this collection of essays, there are some noteworthy strengths. Some real gems emerge from these essays, such as Corley's history of interpretation, Donaldson's excellent study of the Pauline mission to the Gentiles, and Gundry-Volf's wonderful gender discussion. The thematic issues dealt with are important and are presented in very readable form. I could see this collection of essays being useful for its intended audience to explore Paul's theological views, such as in a study group or a classroom setting. Many of the essays emerge out of the authors' own published works and these are conveniently referenced in the bibliographies. In summary, this collection of essays would have been better entitled *Thematic Studies of Pauline Thought* than *The Road from Damascus*. As a diverse thematic collection, we have been well supplied with fascinating and useful reading.

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He Could Not Do Otherwise: Bishop Lajos Ordass, 1901–1978

Laszlo G. Terray
 Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.,
 1997

This book makes timely reading when we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Lutheran World Federation. It provides a few glimpses into the work of that organization and its impact on events in Hungary during the Communist era. Older Lutherans may recall the impact of Bishop Ordass' sermon at the opening service of the LWF Assembly in Minneapolis in 1957, a short time after his release from prison. He was also elected twice as a vice-president of the LWF, although the political situation in Hungary never allowed him to serve in that office.

The book will also interest history buffs who want to learn something about life in the Lutheran Church in a Communist country. Lajos Ordass was a Hungarian Lutheran bishop who faithfully stood up to Adolf Hitler's Nazism and Joseph Stalin's Communism.

While the book chronicles Ordass' entire life, a significant portion concentrates on his struggles with the Communist regime in Hungary and is sketchy about life during World War II. I found Eric Gritsch's translation a bit stilted, but the material held my interest most of the time.

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