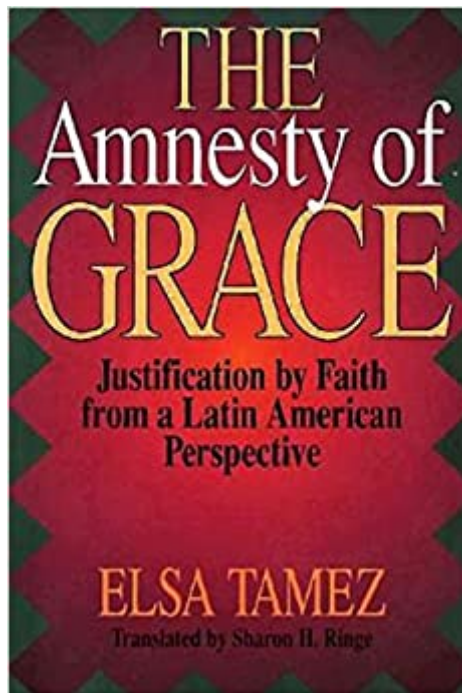




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The Amnesty Of Grace: Justification By Faith From A Latin American Perspective



Synopsis

"This study explores the meaning of justification in the framework of Latin American theology of liberation, which is a particular way of doing theology welcomed by both Catholics and Protestants. In this theology, the poor, 'oppressed and believing,' constitute the privileged locus of theology. That is to say, theology is done from their reality of oppression-liberation and their experience of God. Every great theological theme, every biblical reading, must be reexamined from that angle of vision." (from the Introduction, by Elsa Tamez)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Spanish

Sharon Ringe is Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and adjunct professor at Universidad BÃfÃ-ca Latinoamericana, San Jose, Costa Rica.

I have yet to read this book but thought it might be helpful to offer more of a description of it than is offered above (since the title did not interest me, but the table of contents did). From the Introduction: "This book is divided into three parts. The first discusses the need to reformulate the doctrine of justification by faith in contexts of poverty and discrimination: The phrase 'justification of the sinner' requires a sketch of the profile of those human beings who receive the message. I offer a critique of the usual meaning of that phrase, and I propose new challenges. In the same section of

the book, I analyze the contributions or intuitions that have already emerged in Latin America concerning the theme under investigation."The second part returns to the biblical text in the search for new light to illuminate liberating meanings of justification by faith. The focus is on Paul, and on relating his theological proposals with his historical moment, without reducing that relationship to abstract theological disputes. The socioeconomic and political situation of the Roman Empire and the particular situation of Paul as a 'plural subject' help to delimit the theme of justification within the framework of human history."The third part of the book attempts a rereading of the doctrine of justification by faith from the perspective of Latin America today. The reading of the biblical text and the challenges of that historical reality, respectively, lay the foundation for that study. The theological discussion is developed under two headings: (1) justification by faith and the threatened life of the poor, and (2) the gift of being subjects of history as an expression of the power of justification by faith. This last section concludes with some elaborations of the meaning of sacrifice, judgment, and forgiveness."

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