

They discuss about a half a dozen books. They have some nice words to say about the New International Version of the NT, they refer also to ecumenical versions of course and to unchristian books though in not a very unfavorable way. Then they have a heading here among the six books that they ~~be~~ put in old face as of great importance; they say, What ever became of sin? by Carl Menninger. The Dean of American psychiatrists who ~~admits~~ admits that ~~e once~~ hailed the disappearance of sin, here launches a remarkable campaign to bring back the concept. Evil surrounds us, Menninger argues, but when no one is responsible no one is guilty. No moral questions are asked. We sink to despairing helplessness. American's moral slide cannot be reversed he says, unless we accept personal responsibility for evil acts and repent! I have cringed sometimes when I have seen someone stand before an audience of people knowing nothing about Christianity and hold out \$1 and say, Here's a dollar, take it, take it will you have it? And of course people look incredulously and then somebody takes it and then he says, All right now is it yours? Well now will you take Christ as Saviour. Now you have taken Him. Is He yours, are you saved? A marvellous illustration to give if a person already has a strong realization of the terrible nature of sin and the need of salvation from sin. But apart from that it gives an utterly false idea of the gospel as if it was just something that somebody could pick up like a piece of paper that you find somewhere. Repentance is necessary. The fact that we can do nothing to earn it is very very important but it means nothing unless we first have the realization of the terrible nature of sin, its inevitable results and need of a Saviour.

That came to M. Luther when he was a young student. He was making progress in the university. It looked as if he had a great future before him. His father had worked very hard in order to make it possible for Martin to get an education and get advantages he had not had. Martin went to the university and did well. He was beloved of his classmates.