Reading Revelation Responsibly

Nazarene New Testament scholar Dr. Dean Flemming recommended a book on Revelation that I read recently. It is entitled *Reading Revelation Responsibly* by Michael J. Gorman.

In two previous booknotes I have recommended *Revelation and the End of All Things* by Craig Koester and *Revelation and the End Times* by Ben Witherington III.

In planning for a series of sermons on the Book of Revelation I will use these three resources plus two commentaries entitled *Revelation* by Ben Witherington III in the New Cambridge Bible Commentary series and *Revelation for Everyone* by N.T. Wright (to be published in October 2011).

*Reading Revelation Responsibly* by Michael Gorman is for those who are confused by and afraid of the book of Revelation. Gorman rescues the book from those who either completely misinterpret it or completely ignore it. He has given us both a guide to reading Revelation in a responsible way and a theological engagement with the text itself.

Gorman pays particular attention to the book's original historical and literary contexts and its connections to the rest of Scripture. He also looks at its relationship to Christian doctrine and practice.

Rather than a script for end times, Gorman demonstrates how Revelation is a script for Christian worship, witness, and mission that runs counter to culturally embedded civil religion.

*Dr. Barth Smith is Professor of Practical Theology in the School of Christian Ministry and Formation. He has served the students and staff of MNU and pastored the same church -- for over 30 years!*