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## Zakaria's "In Defense of a Liberal Education" (Book Review)

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### **Illustrated Life of Paul,**

by Charles L. Quarles, Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. 292 pp. \$29.99.  
ISBN 9780805494532

*Reviewed by Gary Fitsimmons, Director of Library Services, Bryan College, Dayton, TN*

A thoroughly researched volume, this book by Dr. Quarles melds works of art, photographs and reconstructions of historical locations, histories of the time period, and prevailing interpretations of New Testament scripture with the narrative of Acts and Paul's letters to piece together a chronology of the life of the apostle. Where there is reason for debate concerning such things as motivations of the people involved or the order or timing of events, he supports his rendering with logical arguments based on the available evidence. Literally hundreds of endnotes, many supplying further details in addition to citing the sources of information on specific points in the chronology, lend authority to the work, which also includes separate subject and scripture indices to aid researchers. The subject matter of Paul's letters is treated in the context of the likely timing of their authorship. Although the theology of the letters and of Paul and his contemporaries is covered specifically as it relates to the events of his life, the book is not intended as a theological treatise, yet is written from a decidedly Calvinistic viewpoint. Dr. Quarles' work is a comprehensive overview of the life of this great apostle and as such is extremely useful both for anyone seeking to put these parts of the New Testament in their proper chronological perspective and as a starting place for further research on any topic relating to Paul's life and ministry.

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### **In Defense of a Liberal Education,**

by Fareed Zakaria. New York: W.W. Norton, 2015. 204 pp. \$23.95.  
ISBN 9780393247688

*Reviewed by Mark E. Roberts, Associate Professor & Director, Holy Spirit Research Center,  
Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK*

Against the charge that college is no longer worth the cost and the examples of dropouts who created hi-tech giants, Zakaria urges American higher education to hold fast to liberal learning – and not to dilute it to workforce development – while updating its scope to include STEM learning. Such liberal education must proceed from E. O. Wilson's evaluation and prepare graduates to fulfill his prediction: "We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom. The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely" (epigraph).

Zakaria draws on his global experience, having studied in India and at Yale and worked as a journalist, professor, and foreign policy advisor. His brief history

shows that liberal education has been the distinctively *American* approach to higher education through different curricula, whether largely elective or centered on a required core. Zakaria credits liberal learning with much of his career success and identifies its valuable products as learning to speak well and to learn (yielding innovation), with pride of place going to learning to write well, because “writing makes you think” (p. 72). Impressive witnesses agree, including icons of business and technology (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and former Lockheed Martin CEO Norman Augustine), showing that liberal learning is the best path to professional specialization.

Adding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to liberal learning acknowledges such knowledge as essential to being well educated today and their innovations as having already triggered lasting changes to how education occurs, including becoming more accessible (e.g., MOOCs). Zakaria’s brief, easy-reading defense may contribute most by glimpsing this updated liberal education in the multicultural partnership between Yale and the National University of Singapore. Their new college of liberal arts and sciences, Yale-NUS, received its first students in 2011 and is “the most interesting and ambitious effort to reform liberal education for the twenty-first century” (p. 67). It merits our monitoring.

Highly recommended for all academic libraries, especially for faculty, administrators, and trustees.

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### **Introduction to Global Missions,**

by Zane Pratt, M. David Sills, and Jeff K. Walters. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. 280 pp. \$34.99. ISBN 9781433678752

*Reviewed by Georgianne Bordner, Head of Technical Services, Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA*

*Introduction to Global Missions* delivers exactly what the title promises: a brief overview of all of the topics typically included in an introductory course in missiology, arranged in a way that would make it a useful textbook. It begins with a discussion of the missionary call, followed by the biblical and theological foundation of missions. The authors continue on to a brief history of missions, from the early church to today. A section on the relationship of culture and missions deals with the aspects of applied anthropology and world religions. Finally, the book concludes with a discussion of a variety of missionary methods, including disciple making, church planting, and the roles of individual Christians and local churches. Each chapter includes a brief bibliography of resources for further study.