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Thompson's "The Church According to Paul" (Book Review)

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The Church According to Paul,

by James W. Thompson. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014. 289 pp. \$19.88.
ISBN 9780801048821

*Reviewed by Carmon Annetta Thomas, Owner/Librarian, Pearls of Joy Enterprises,
Fort Worth, TX*

Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University, Dr. James W. Thompson contributes to an ongoing conversation defining the church and covering issues contemporary as well as eternal. Thompson states his belief that Paul's writings hold solutions for the modern church. To that end, Thompson pens a scholarly work containing an abbreviation glossary, an extensive bibliography, Scripture index, as well as subject and modern author indexes.

Even though this reviewer has not read Thompson's earlier works, the work under review introduces and expounds upon the topic in such a way that does not make the reader feel as though background information is missing. Thompson accomplishes a kind of multi-faceted examination from as many different angles as possible in the current work, almost visibly rolling the subject around in his hand as he takes notes. The notes take the reader from one aspect to another in a logical progression all the while bringing Scripture into the conversation. This continual reminding gives the reader the sensation of holding Thompson's work in one hand and the Bible in the other. Thompson's style has the overall effect of leading this reviewer to marvel that Thompson's personal viewpoint seems to be missing from the text. Facets Thompson covers include a new, or rather old, definition of "missional" (p. 151) and spiritual formation as a corporate function (p. 103).

Useful as a textbook filled with so much material it might take more than two semesters to cover all of it, the potential exists for studies in: language, Pauline studies, church history, church growth, cultural studies, community building, discipleship/life application, and/or devotional/bible study.

Compassion without Compromise: How the Gospel Frees Us to Love Our Gay Friends Without Losing the Truth,

by Adam T. Barr and Ron Citlau. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers,
2014. 158 pp. \$12.99. ISBN 9789764212406

Reviewed by Carol Reid, Librarian, Welch Library, Welch College, Nashville, TN

Authors Adam Barr and Ron Citlau are Reformed Church in America pastors and write from a pastoral perspective. They hold a high view of Scripture as inspired by God. They plainly address homosexuality as sin and refute interpretations of