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Barr and Citlau's "Compassion without Compromise: How the Gospel Frees Us to Love Our Gay Friends Without Losing the Truth" (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

the Scripture that would teach otherwise, refusing exceptions on either canonical (Leviticus passages) or cultural (Romans passages) grounds. They object to a “revisionist” view of Jesus’ teaching and return to the arguments of creation and the gospel’s transformation as underlying support for their views, allowing no compromises in the church’s attitude toward homosexuality. Chapter ten examines the forty-year progress of the Gay Rights Agenda and its impact on the twenty-first century church.

But do not be mistaken. This is a gentle, gracious book that also strongly promotes a compassionate, welcoming attitude toward gays. The authors promote a loving, open, humble interaction with homosexuals, with the goal of healing and restoring hope. Citlau’s own experience with his same-sex attraction and sin give him unusual insight and great compassion in facing these issues.

This pastoral approach is accessible and very practical, especially in two chapters that use a question and answer format. Readers are pointed to the accompanying website (<http://compassionwithoutcompromise.com/>) for additional discussions on hot topics. Further resources are provided through the Restored Hope Network and a brief but current bibliography.

In all, this work accomplishes its stated purpose: “to be pastorally helpful” as an “accessible resource that gives clear biblical teaching, answers tough questions, and shares personal stories” to help “Christians in our changing world find balanced ways to respond to the issue of homosexuality” (p. 20).

Day by Day Bible: Children’s Bible Stories for Every Day

by Juliet David. Oxford: Candle Books, 2014. 400 pp. \$14.97. ISBN 978185985824

*Reviewed by Sandra Yaegle, Head of Public Services, Regent University Library,
Virginia Beach, VA*

The *Day by Day Bible: Children’s Bible Stories for Every Day* is a collection of three hundred and sixty-six Bible stories adapted for children and designed to be used as a devotional with a story provided for each day of the year. The Scripture passages depicted in each story are provided in the margins, and nine different Bible versions are utilized. For some stories, a comment is included to encourage the child to think about what will happen next; the book may be a stronger resource if this occurred throughout. The attention-getting pictures are vibrant from the use of primary colors and are done in a manner that complements the storyline.