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Quarles' "Illustrated Life of Paul" (Book Review)

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Illustrated Life of Paul,
292 pp. $29.99. ISBN 9780805494532

Reviewed by Tiffany Norris, Public Services Librarian,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

Through detailed maps, stunning current photos, and reproductions of classical art, Charles Quarles, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, tells the story of the life of Paul. This introduction to perhaps the most noted biblical figure outside of Jesus is accessible, interesting, and well researched. While there is not a large amount of new material, the illustrations, as expected from the title, are the strongest selling points of the book. It is organized into relatively brief, logical divisions that would work well to provide introductory or supplemental information in a setting such as a Bible study class.

While the book does take some narrative liberties in describing the events in Paul’s life (such as his thoughts, feelings, and motivations that are not described in the Bible), the book also provides useful context for Paul’s writings throughout his life, explaining Pharisaic and Roman customs, for instance. Examples of illustrations include a current picture of the traditional site where Paul was lowered out of the window in Damascus, Raphael’s painting of Paul preaching in Athens, and a map with two possible routes of the Damascus Road, where he was converted.

Justice Awakening: How You and Your Church Can Help End Human Trafficking,
ISBN 9780830844197

Reviewed by Laura E. Walton, Circulation Librarian, Miller Library,
Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

Eddie Byun, pastor of Onnuri English Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, provides an overview of human trafficking in our world today along with practical ways in which the church can work to end it. Although this book is small in size, its message is poignant and relevant. In five chapters, Byun delivers a concise overview of modern-day slavery, where it is happening around the world, and why Christians should be working to expose this issue to the world and eradicate the problem. Byun draws on his own experiences within his church and ministry to give ideas and inspire others to join the fight against modern-day slavery and human trafficking.