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Capes, Reeves, and Richards' "Rediscovering Paul: An introduction to his world, letters, and theology" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Capes, D.B., Reeves, R., & Richards, E.R. (2017). *Rediscovering Paul: An introduction to his world, letters, and theology*. (2nd ed.). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. 462 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 9780830851911

From the very beginning, scholars have debated the authority, accuracy and relevance of Paul's theology and teachings. Even his authorship is contested. Considering all of the differing scholarly viewpoints and the innumerable resources available, it can be overwhelming for students to begin studying Paul the Apostle. Capes, Reeves, and Richards offer an introduction to the study Paul in *Rediscovering Paul*, as a way to provide insight into the vast knowledge of Paul in one textbook.

The authors begin the book by giving specific examples of how Paul's words are taken differently in other parts of the world. Capes, Reeves, and Richards suggest that our modern Western culture may not be following the 'same Paul' as other Christians around the world. They stress the importance of clearly understanding Paul's teachings as he meant them and not how we would like to perceive them. Paul's goal was to imitate Christ. With this in mind, the authors state "Our personal quest is to rediscover Paul so that we can imitate him as he imitates Christ" (p. 10).

While the first chapter specifically focuses on Paul's culture, the authors continue throughout the book to describe pertinent information about the world in which Paul lived. The authors use the next eight chapters to delve into his personal transformation, and analyze each of his letters compared to others of that time period. The ending chapters discuss the basis of theology, the history of his letters, and ways in which they apply to our current time period.

As with the previous edition, highlight boxes entitled "What's More" and "So What?" give the reader helpful snippets of more information. The authors also discuss other relevant sources throughout the text and provide "Read More About It" lists for further reading at the end of each chapter. With clear and relatable wording, *Rediscovering Paul* is an excellent introduction to Pauline studies and would be a valuable addition to academic libraries.

Reviewer

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