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## Capes, Reeves, and Richards' "Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology" (Book Review)

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**Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology,**

by David B. Capes, Rodney Reeves and E. Randolph Richards. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007. 350 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 9780830839414

*Reviewed by Linda Poston, Dean of Library Services, Nyack College, Nyack, NY*

This work is authored by three professors, David Capes (Houston Baptist University), Rodney Reeves (Southwest Baptist University) and E. Randolph Richards (Palm Beach Atlantic University), and is designed as an introductory college textbook covering many facets of the Apostle Paul's life, including his background, the Mediterranean world at that time, and an overview of his theology and ministry as integrated in corporate and personal letters. Special features include highlighted sections entitled "So What?" and "What's More" peppered throughout the chapters, encouraging readers to understand the significance of various topics and to explore further. The book provides rich insights into Paul's world, clarifying the strong role of honor, shame and purity in the society, providing a context for many of Paul's arguments. For instance, the cultural role of benefactors sheds light on Romans 15:17-30 where the acceptance of the relief offering by the mother church would give approval to Paul's mission to the Gentiles (p. 30). The chapter "Paul the Letter Writer" provides helpful insights into the use of secretaries and the logistics of writing and sending a letter. Paul's ministry is presented in three general stages: his conversion and call, his itinerant ministry, and his ministry from prison. The authors present the apostle's theology as one built on a Jewish foundation and describe it as "Christological monotheism," or a relationship with God through Christ (p. 272). The book concludes with Paul's legacy and covers significant research for the earliest manuscripts of Paul's writings, including *Papyrus 46*. This document includes a collection of nine of his letters, indicating that the oldest Pauline manuscript was already a collection of his works. This book is unique in that it provides an overarching view to enable the reader to rediscover Paul, his world, and his letters.

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**Separation of Church & State: Founding Principle of Religious Liberty,**

by Frank Lambert. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2014. 227 pp. \$29.00. ISBN 9780881464771

*Reviewed by Charles Huckaby, Assistant, Technical Services Department,  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX*

Frank Lambert's *Separation of Church & State* is a new addition to the voluminous shelf of books discussing the separation of church and state as envisioned (or not) by our Founding Fathers. Lambert is professor of history at Purdue University and has written on this subject before several times over. In fact, Lambert sometimes directs readers, through the footnotes, to reference back to something he has already written