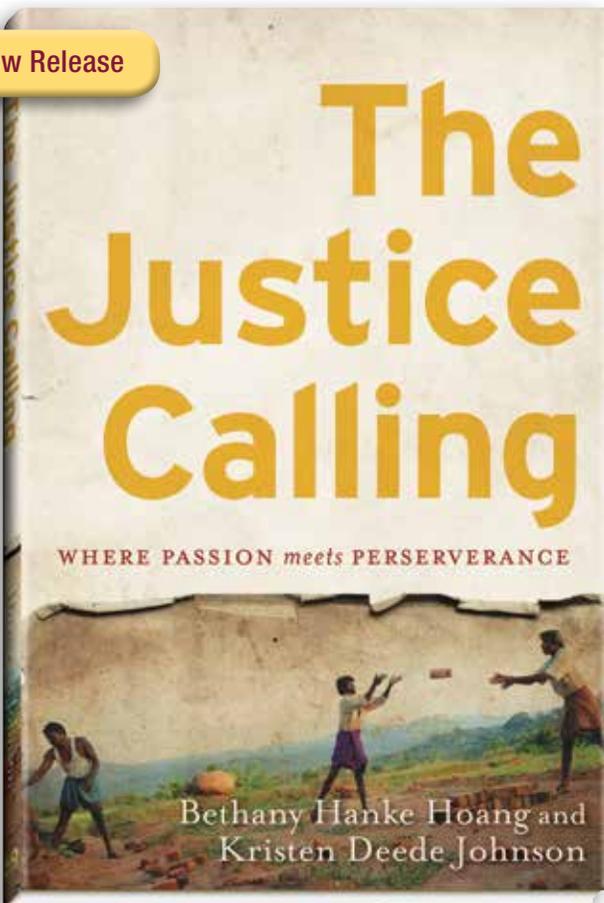


New Release



## The Justice Calling

*Where Passion Meets Perseverance*

**Bethany Hanke Hoang and Kristen Deede Johnson**

Over the past decade, justice movements have been growing to abolish labor slavery, end sex trafficking, fight for those who suffer violent oppression, and address the grinding poverty that is inextricable to the utter vulnerability of the poor. Evangelical interest, in particular, has been on the rise. But reactions can all too easily range from impulsive fits of activism without true understanding to paralyzing despair.

In *The Justice Calling*, two authors with firsthand experience in the justice movement encourage readers to ground their call to justice in sound biblical and theological teaching as they engage with the most critical global needs of our time. The authors connect justice to Scripture, the character of God, and the long traditions and practices of the church so that passion meets perseverance and justice becomes an enduring and integrated part of our life and faith. Christians who are passionate about social justice issues—especially college-age students and emerging adults—as well as campus ministry and parachurch groups will value this work. The book will work well as a supplementary text for courses in theology, global Christianity, holistic ministry, and discipleship.

### Excerpt

We've been encouraged by the direction the conversation on justice and other forms of activism has been going—it seems that the conversation is headed in a deepening direction, that there is more of a concern to resist the danger of simply joining a temporary fad that burns white hot in the moment only to flame out over the long haul. We've noticed and have been encouraged that there are many voices, particularly quite recently, emerging with a call for passion that lasts, for action that is sustainable, for a deeper spiritual grounding to undergird attempts at making real, lasting change in the world. . . .

As the body of Christ, we need to engage our justice calling with a passion that meets perseverance. Justice that perseveres is justice that is intimately connected to our life in Christ. And an understanding of that life that is rooted in Scripture and that is connected to the ongoing life of the church sees the present and future mission of God's kingdom as integrally connected with this Jesus-rooted justice.

Perseverance will come as we recognize more and more that justice begins in the heart of God, not merely with our all too easily faltering good intentions. . . .

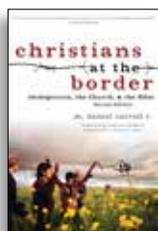
In this book we want to invite you, the reader, to see where and how commitment to justice is rooted in the biblical story and intimately connected to an understanding of who God is and God's desire for humanity and the world.

February 2015 • 224 pp. • cloth • \$19.99 • 978-1-58743-363-4  
 Christianity and Culture, Ethics, Spirituality/Spiritual Formation  
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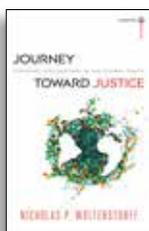
**Bethany Hanke Hoang** (MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary) is the director of the Institute for Biblical Justice at International Justice Mission (IJM) in Washington, DC, a human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation, and other forms of violent oppression. She regularly speaks on behalf of IJM and was named among “50 Women to Watch” by *Christianity Today*. **Kristen Deede Johnson** (PhD, University of St. Andrews) is associate professor of theology and Christian formation at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. She was the founding director of the Studies in Ministry minor and the Center for Ministry Studies at Hope College, programs dedicated to upholding the significance of theological formation, spiritual growth, cultural engagement, and vocational discernment.



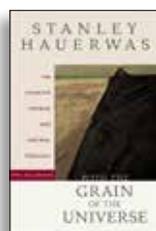
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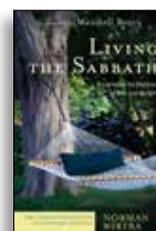
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## Kingdom Conspiracy

*Returning to the Radical Mission of the Local Church*

Scot McKnight

According to Scot McKnight, “kingdom” is the biblical term most misused by Christians today. It has taken on meanings that are completely at odds with what the Bible says and has become a buzzword for both social justice and redemption. In *Kingdom Conspiracy*, McKnight offers a sizzling biblical corrective and a fiercely radical vision for the role of the local church in the kingdom of God.

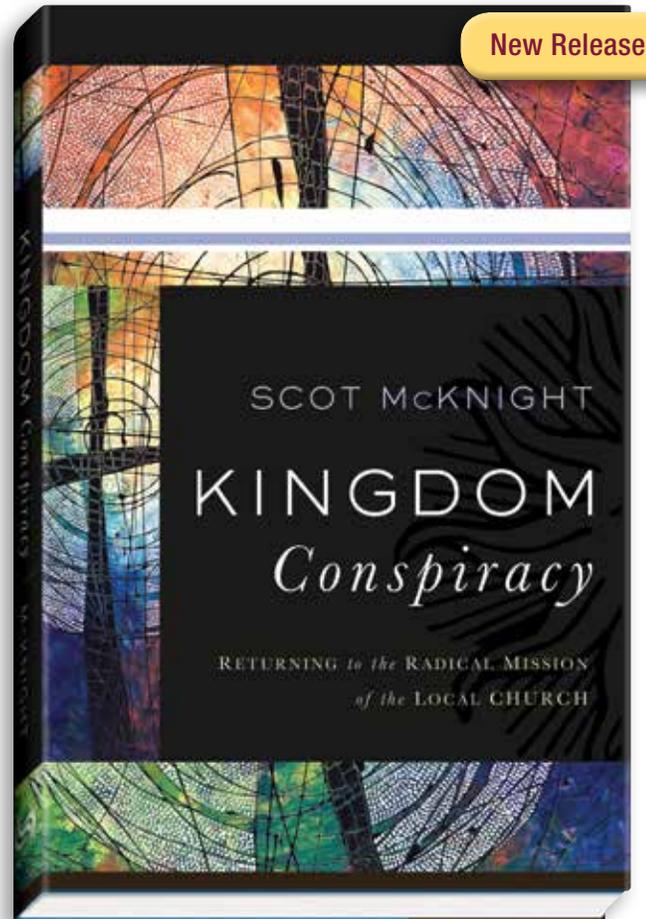
### Endorsements

“There is so much talk these days about ‘the kingdom of God,’ and yet there is so much confusion about what this phrase even means! This is why *Kingdom Conspiracy* is one of the most important and timeliest works to be written in recent years. McKnight brings much-needed clarity to what ‘kingdom of God’ means—and doesn’t mean—and how it relates to the church and its mission. This is a book that needs to be read by everyone who wants to understand and consistently live out what it means to be a follower of King Jesus.”—**Gregory A. Boyd**, Woodland Hills Church, St. Paul, Minnesota; author of *Repenting of Religion* and *Benefit of the Doubt*

“In *Kingdom Conspiracy*, McKnight critiques those of us who have reduced the kingdom to social action or personal salvation. He then issues an invitation to embrace a kingdom theology rooted in the church; it’s as simple as gathering and doing the things the church is called to do.”—**Sara Barton**, Pepperdine University; author of *A Woman Called: Piecing Together the Ministry Puzzle*

“Evoking ‘kingdom’ language has become the new vogue among missional communities—almost as in vogue as the word ‘missional’ itself. With prescient analysis and pastoral insight, Scot McKnight succeeds in providing a scriptural and theological text for those who have heard the word so often but failed to think through its meaning. McKnight offers a fresh take on the kingdom that will serve as a primer for followers of Jesus who seek first the kingdom of God in our own context.”—**Soong-Chan Rah**, North Park Theological Seminary; author of *The Next Evangelicalism*

“Unlocking what Jesus meant by ‘the kingdom of God’ is essential to our witness to the gospel. If Christians today are going to live in the world as the church, we need to understand the message of this book.”—**Rich Stearns**, president of World Vision U.S.; and author of *Unfinished* and *The Hole in Our Gospel*



October 2014 • 304 pp. • cloth • \$21.99 • 978-1-58743-360-3

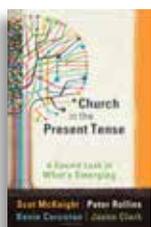
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**Scot McKnight** (PhD, University of Nottingham), professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary, is a world-renowned scholar, writer, and speaker. His blog, *Jesus Creed*, is one of the most popular and influential evangelical blogs. He is the author or editor of more than fifty books, including *The Blue Parakeet*, *The King Jesus Gospel*, and *Sermon on the Mount*.



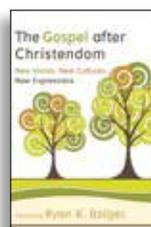
### Also of Interest



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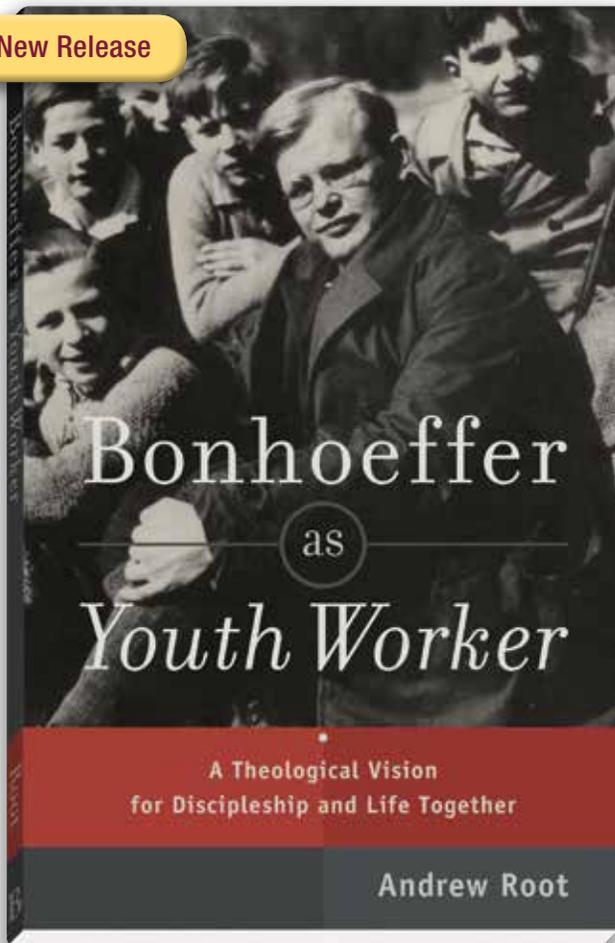


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## Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker

*A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life Together*

**Andrew Root**

The youth ministry focus of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life is often forgotten or overlooked, even though he did much work with young people and wrote a number of papers, sermons, and addresses about or for the youth of the church. However, youth ministry expert Andrew Root explains that this focus is central to Bonhoeffer's story and thought. Root presents Bonhoeffer as the forefather and model of the growing theological turn in youth ministry. By linking contemporary youth workers with this epic theologian, the author shows the depth of youth ministry work and underscores its importance in the church. He also shows how Bonhoeffer's life and thought impact present-day youth ministry practice.

### Endorsements

"*Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker* reads like the labor of love that it is, introducing Bonhoeffer as a fellow pastor who shares your passion for young people's journey of faith and your conviction that Christ's church should receive youth without using them. Andrew Root is at his best here, warmly introducing us to an old friend who we didn't know knew us so well."—**Kenda Creasy Dean**, Princeton Theological Seminary; author of *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church* and *A More Excellent Way: What Youth Ministry Can Teach Theological Education If We Let It*

"I read everything Andy Root writes, and I hope you do the same. Andy sheds new light on one of my theological heroes, illuminating Bonhoeffer's timeless power to shape your understanding of both ministry and our faith itself."—**Kara Powell**, Fuller Youth Institute, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Andrew Root argues convincingly that Bonhoeffer scholars have overlooked a significant and animating aspect of his theological formation: his regular interaction with youth and children. In recovering this thread of Bonhoeffer's ministry, Root finds a forefather for the kind of theological youth ministry that he has been promoting, critiques contemporary technological approaches to youth ministry, and weaves together a practical-theological 'place-sharing' approach to youth ministry that engages the concrete and lived experiences of youth. This is an important book."—**Benjamin T. Conner**, Western Theological Seminary

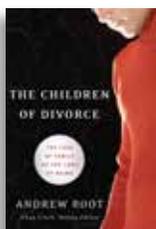
"I have quite literally never read a youth ministry book anything like this: full of history, story, theological articulation, and implication. Absolutely fascinating."

—**Mark Oestreich**, partner, The Youth Cartel

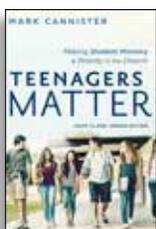
**Andrew Root** (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary and is well connected in the professional youth ministry world. He is the author of *The Children of Divorce*, *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry*, and *Relationships Unfiltered*, and coauthor of *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry*.

**B**

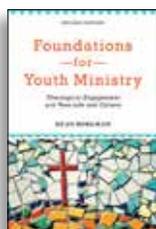
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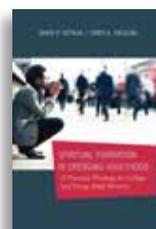
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## Our Global Families

*Christians Embracing Common Identity in a Changing World*

**Todd M. Johnson and Cindy M. Wu**

There is an increasing awareness of global interconnectedness. As Christians, we belong to not only a diverse global Christian family but also a diverse human family. In this volume Todd Johnson, a noted expert on global Christianity and world missions trends, and Cindy Wu show how divisions within these families work against our desire to bring about positive change in the world. They provide an overview of global Christian identity, exploring how we can be faithful to our own tradition while being generous and engaging with Christians across denominations, be better informed about and form significant friendships with people of other religions, and be more realistic about our ability to solve the world's problems. The book utilizes the latest research data on global Christianity and world religions and includes tables, graphs, charts, and end-of-chapter discussion questions.

### Contents

Our Global Families: Introduction

#### Part 1: Our Changing World

1. Meet Your Global Christian Family
2. Meet your Global Human Family
3. It's a Small World, After All

#### Part 2: Our Changing Identity

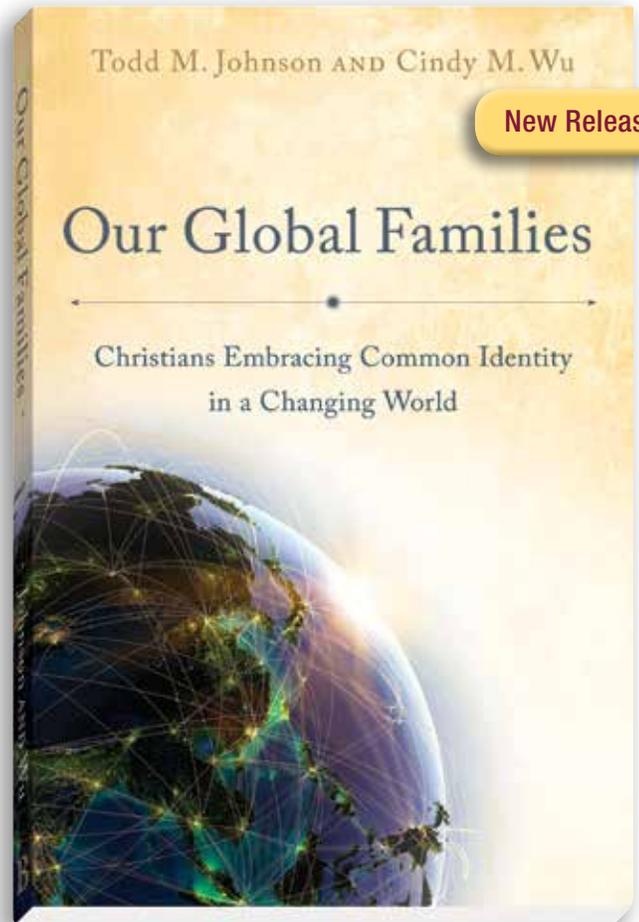
4. We Are Family
5. We Are Global
6. We Are Local

#### Part 3: Our Changing Relationships

7. Solidarity with Christians
8. Solidarity with Others
9. Love Thy Neighbor

#### Part 4: Changing Our World

10. What We Can't Do
  11. What We Can Do
- Conclusion  
Small Group Discussion Questions

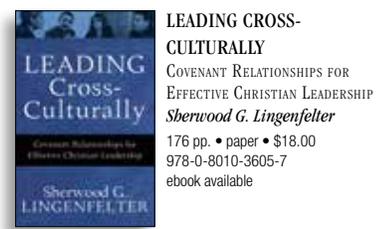
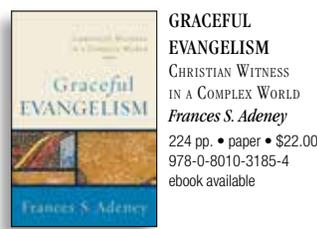
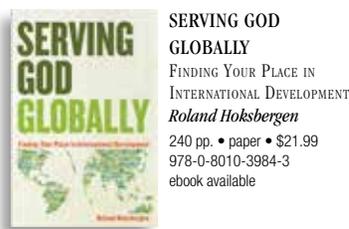
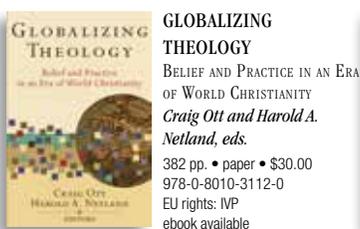


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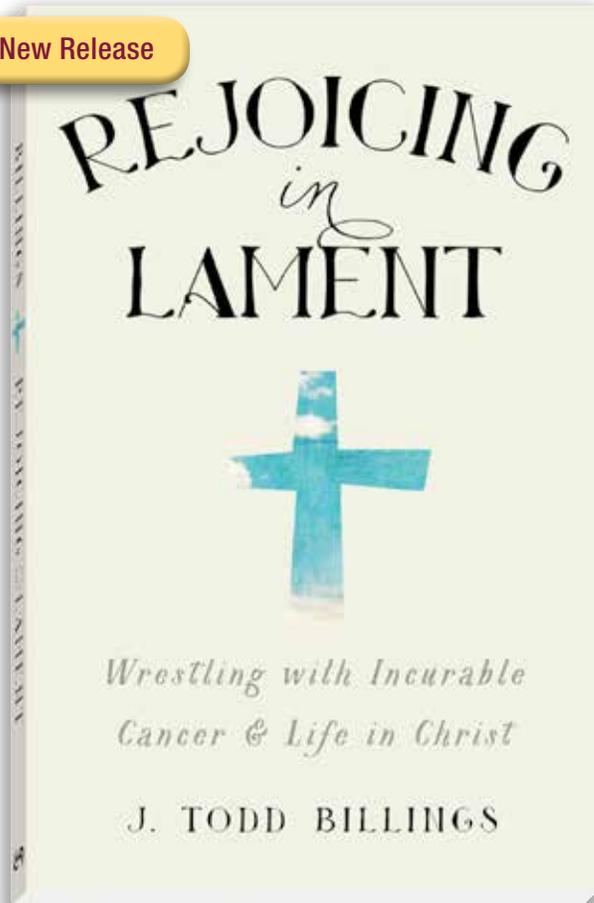
**Todd M. Johnson** (PhD, William Carey International University) is director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity and associate professor of global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is also a visiting research fellow at the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs at Boston University. Johnson is coauthor of *The World's Religions in Figures: An Introduction to International Religious Demography* and the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, and coeditor of the *Atlas of Global Christianity*. **Cindy M. Wu** (MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) has served in church planting contexts in China, Mexico City, Houston, and Boston.

**B**

### Also of Interest



New Release



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**J. Todd Billings** (ThD, Harvard University Divinity School) is Gordon H. Girod Research Professor of Reformed Theology at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, and an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America. He is the author of several books, including the *Christianity Today* Book Award Winner *Union with Christ* and *Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: The Activity of Believers in Union with Christ*, winner of a 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise.



## Rejoicing in Lament

*Wrestling with Incurable Cancer and Life in Christ*

**J. Todd Billings**

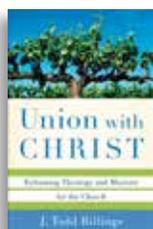
At the age of 39, Christian theologian Todd Billings was diagnosed with a rare form of incurable cancer. In the wake of that diagnosis, he began grappling with the hard theological questions we face in the midst of crisis: Why me? Why now? Where is God in all of this? This eloquently written book shares Billings's journey, struggle, and reflections on providence, lament, and life in Christ in light of his illness, moving beyond pat answers toward hope in God's promises. This hope is expressed in prayers and actions of lament and thanksgiving, compassionate protest against injustice, and a joyful entry into life amid loss.

Theologically robust yet eminently practical, *Rejoicing in Lament* engages the open questions, areas of mystery, and times of disorientation in the Christian life. Billings offers concrete examples through autobiography, cultural commentary, and stories from others, showing how our human stories of joy and grief can be incorporated into the larger biblical story of God's saving work in Christ. Students in systematic and pastoral theology courses, pastors, counselors, caretakers, and anyone seeking a theologically informed reflection on suffering will appreciate *Rejoicing in Lament*.

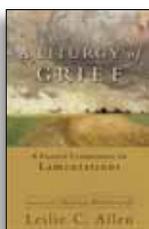
### Endorsement

"Good theology prepares us for suffering. Todd Billings has been giving us great theology for some years now. But in this book it is distilled through the rocky depths of an ongoing struggle with cancer. Every chapter brims with pools of insight, pointing us beyond platitudes to the God who has met us—and keeps on meeting us—in the Suffering and Risen Servant. This is a book not just for reading but for mediation and prayer."  
 —**Michael Horton**, Westminster Seminary California

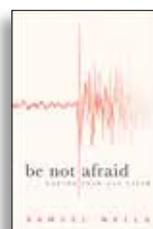
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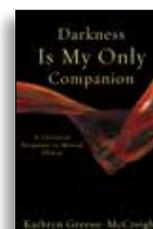
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## The Drama of Living

*Becoming Wise in the Spirit*

**David F. Ford**

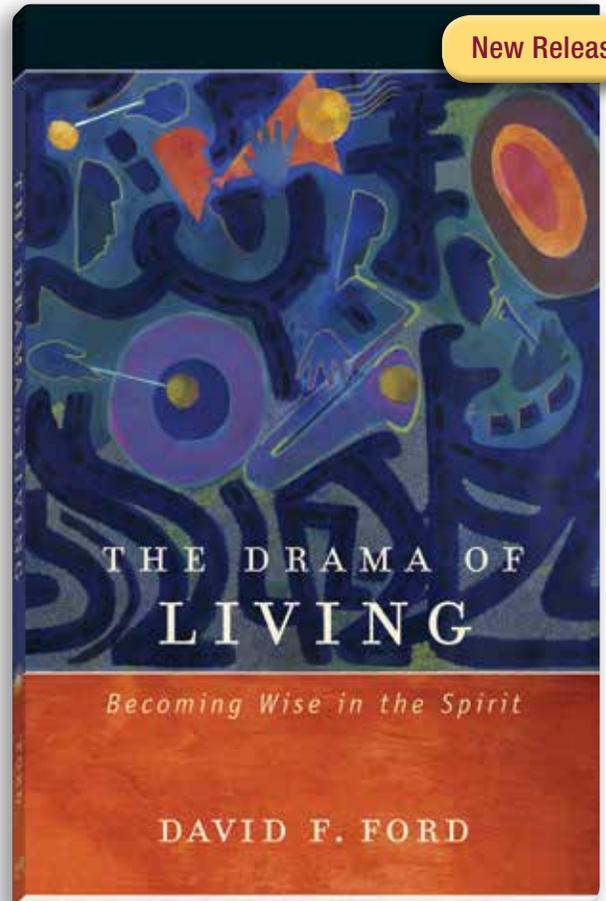
How can we live wisely in the twenty-first century, alert to God and to other people amid the ups and downs of modern life? We find ourselves in the middle of complex situations, relationships, responsibilities, ongoing dramas, and challenges. Our response to these circumstances requires us to draw on many sources and to constantly exercise imagination, discernment, and judgment. In this sequel to his well-received book *The Shape of Living*, renowned theologian David Ford offers insights into living wisely in the Spirit in a culture of distraction. Ford provides a reflective contemporary Christian spirituality that is drawn from the Gospel of John, the work of internationally acclaimed poet Micheal O'Siadhail, and his own life experiences. Discussion questions for individual or group use are included.

### Endorsements

"This is a tour de force. We all take part in the drama of living, and Ford's wisdom shapes our engagement with its depths and fullness. This extraordinary book draws on the riches of his own experience, contemporary poetry, and the mysterious Gospel of John. It both explores the complexities of daily life and inspires wise and creative responses."—**Micheal O'Siadhail**, award-winning poet

"David Ford here combines a treatise in individual and social anthropology with a reading of the Fourth Gospel, in order to assist us while we join him in the 'search for wisdom in the drama of living.' The interweavings among the themes are further strengthened by frequent citations in verse from the Irish poet Micheal O'Siadhail. Altogether this is a book that may properly engage the attention of theological and humanistic readers alike."—**Geoffrey Wainwright**, Duke University

"By tearing down the wall of hostility between autobiography and theology, David Ford draws theology into dailiness, discarding the modern division of 'head' from 'heart.' This memoir unself-consciously blends personal experience, poetry, fiction, drama, jazz, Scripture, and the suffering of the disabled, the Shoah, and the dying, inviting us to read our own interiority through the great minds and tragic moments that have nourished us on the paths we have trod."—**Ellen Charry**, Princeton Theological Seminary

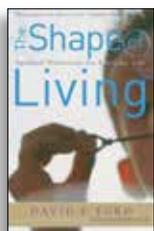


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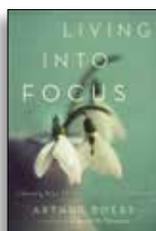
**David F. Ford** (PhD, University of Cambridge) is Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, where he has taught for more than twenty years, and director of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Program. He is also a Fellow of Selwyn College and the author or editor of more than fifteen books, including *The Shape of Living*. Ford is one of the founders of Scriptural Reasoning and has been extensively involved in generating new modes of engagement for inter-faith relations in the post-9/11 world.



### Also of Interest



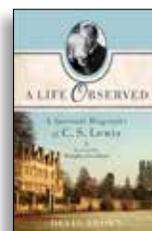
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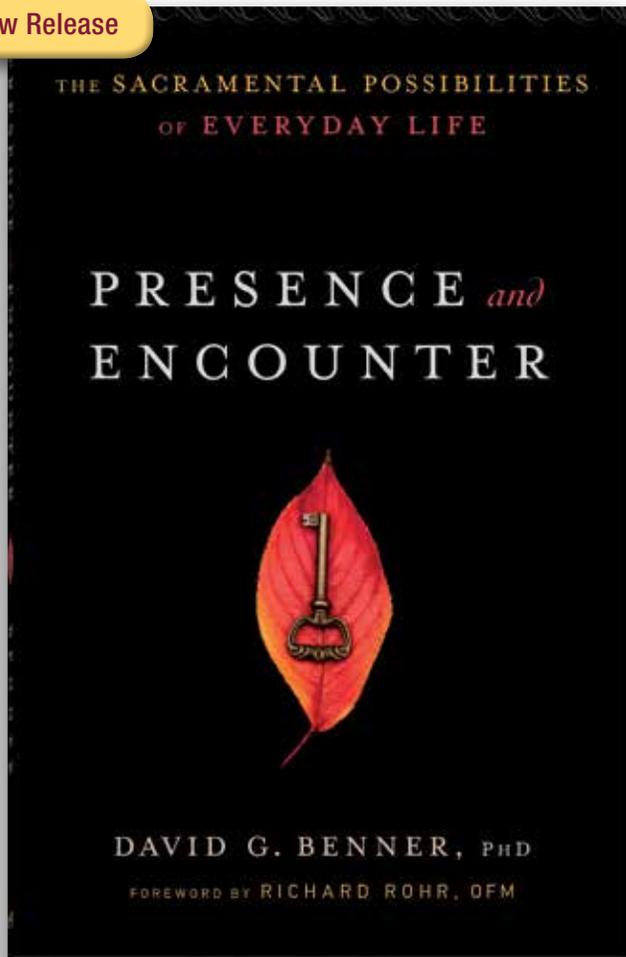


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New Release



## Presence and Encounter

*The Sacramental Possibilities of Everyday Life*

David G. Benner

Foreword by Richard Rohr, OFM

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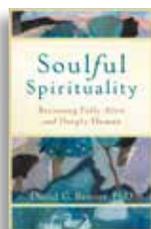
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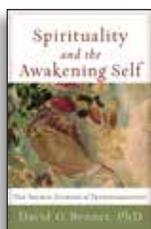
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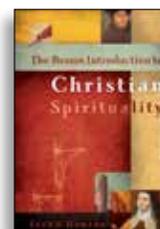
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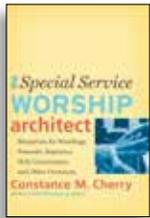
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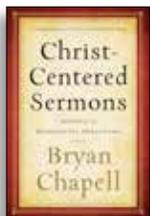
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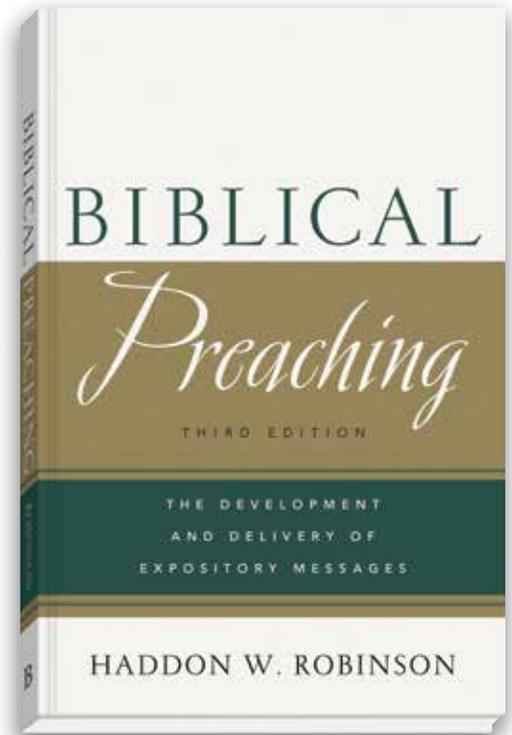
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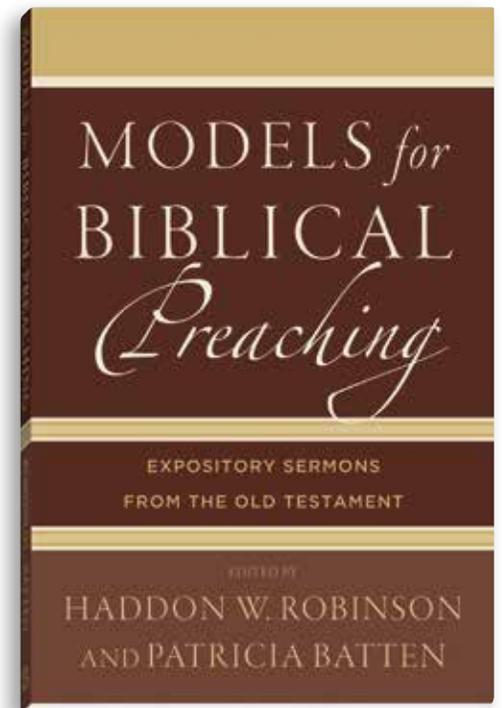
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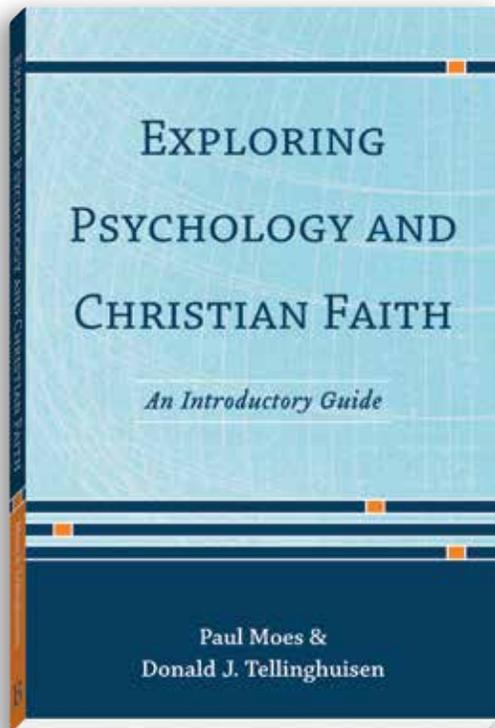
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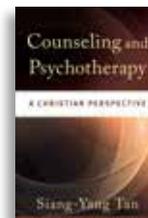
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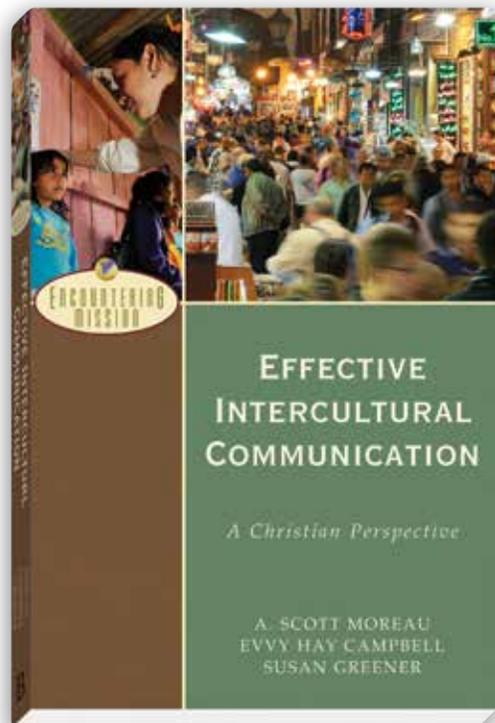
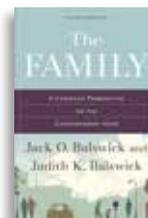
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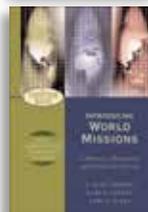
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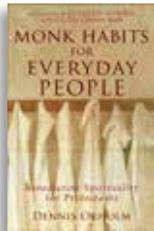
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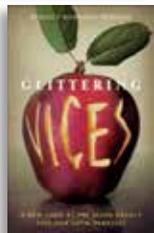


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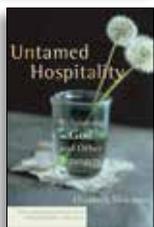
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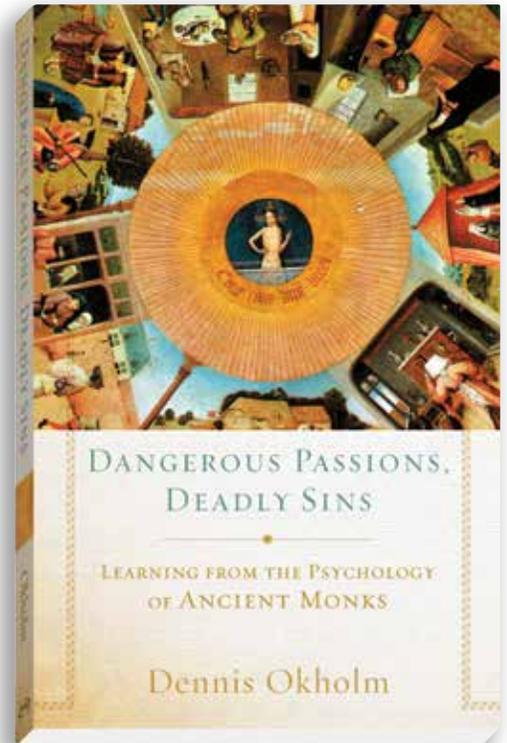
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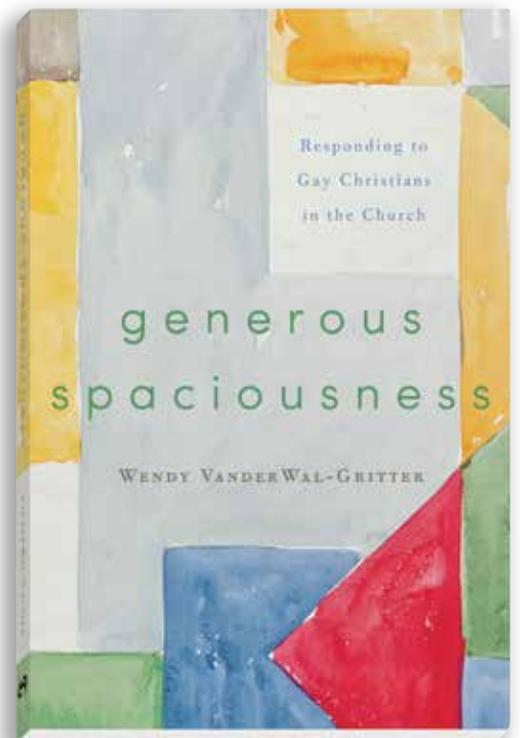
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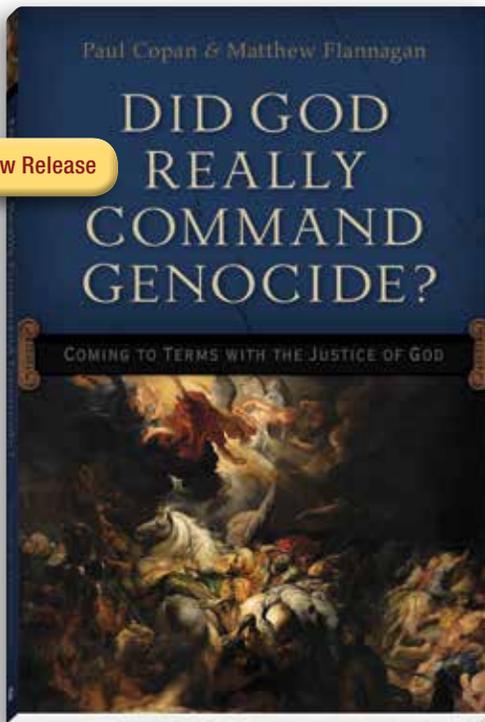
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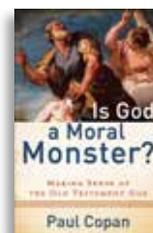
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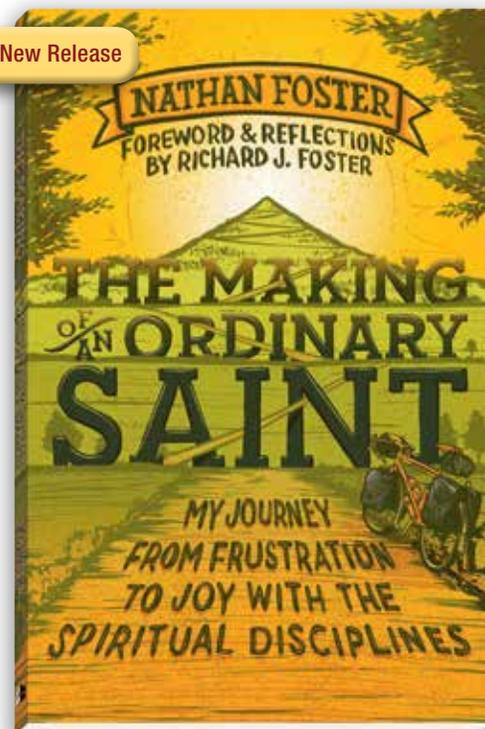


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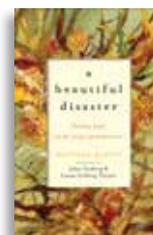
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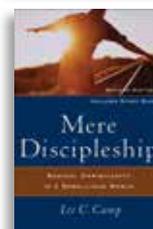
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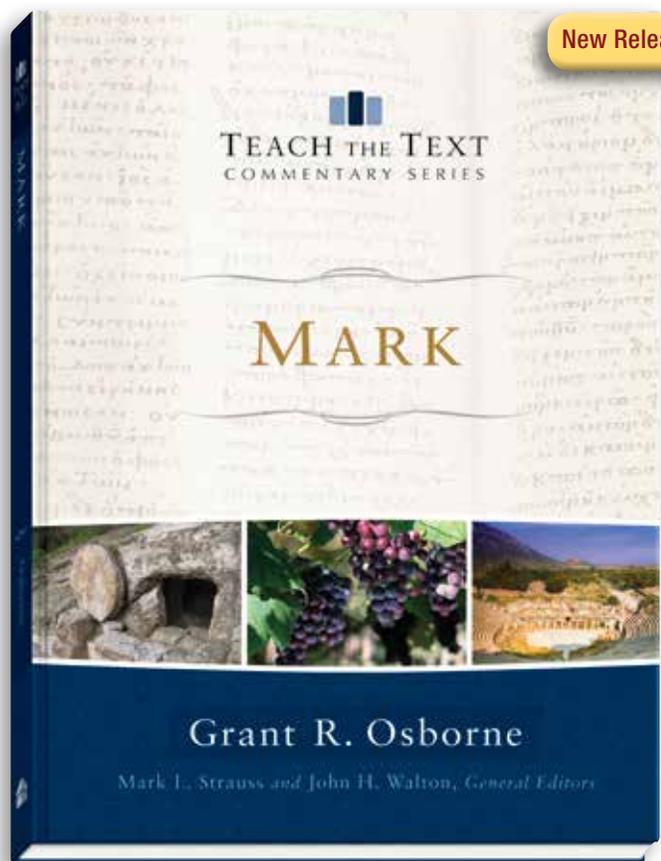
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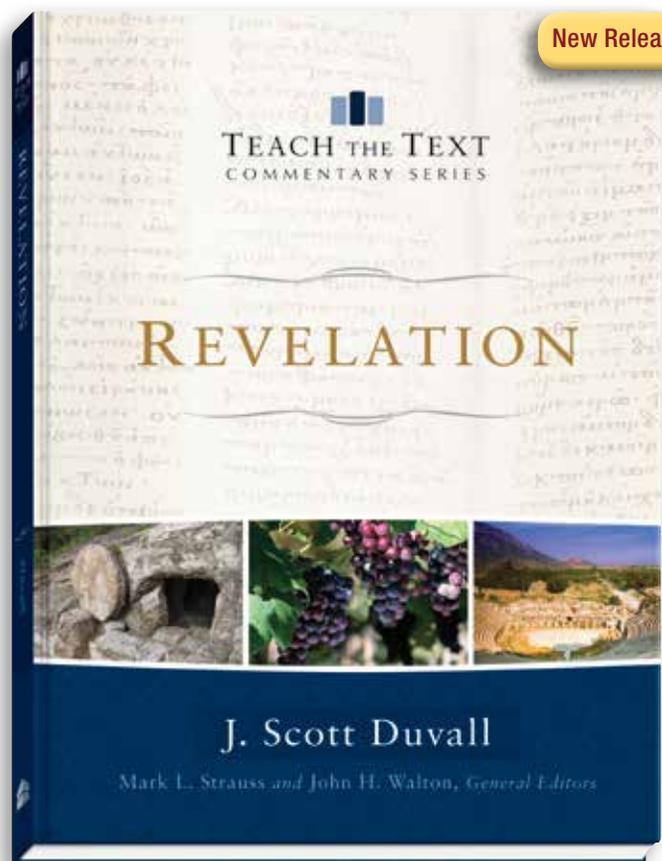
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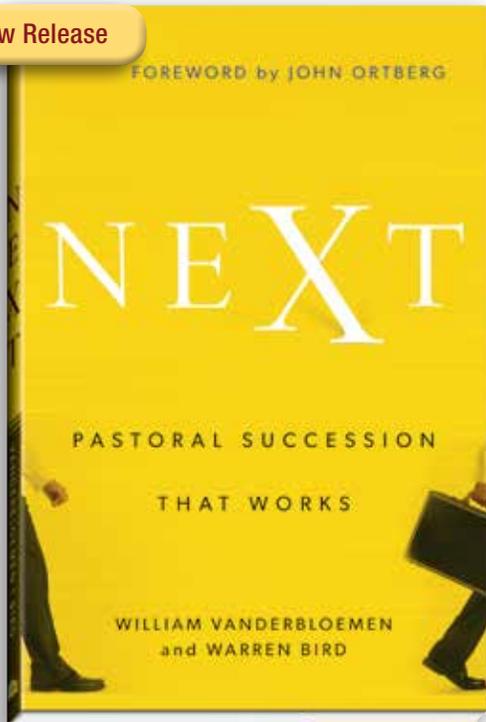
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While there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution for planning for a seamless pastoral succession, *Next* offers guidance in asking the right questions in order to plan for the future. The authors share insider stories of succession failures and successes in dozens of churches, including some of the nation's most influential. Through case studies, interviews, and real-time research, they demystify successful pastoral succession and help readers prepare for an even brighter future for their ministries.

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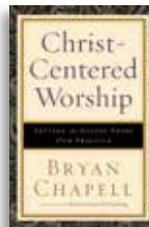


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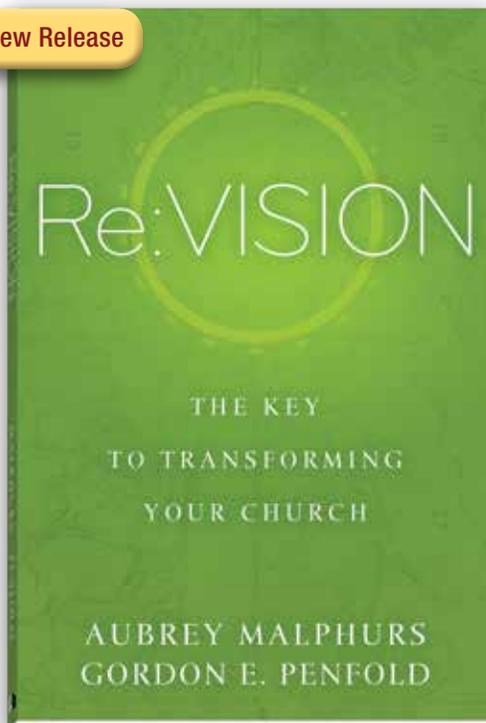
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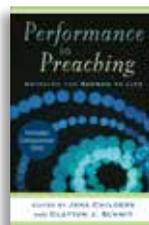
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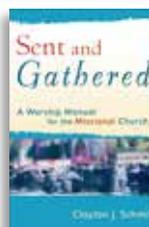
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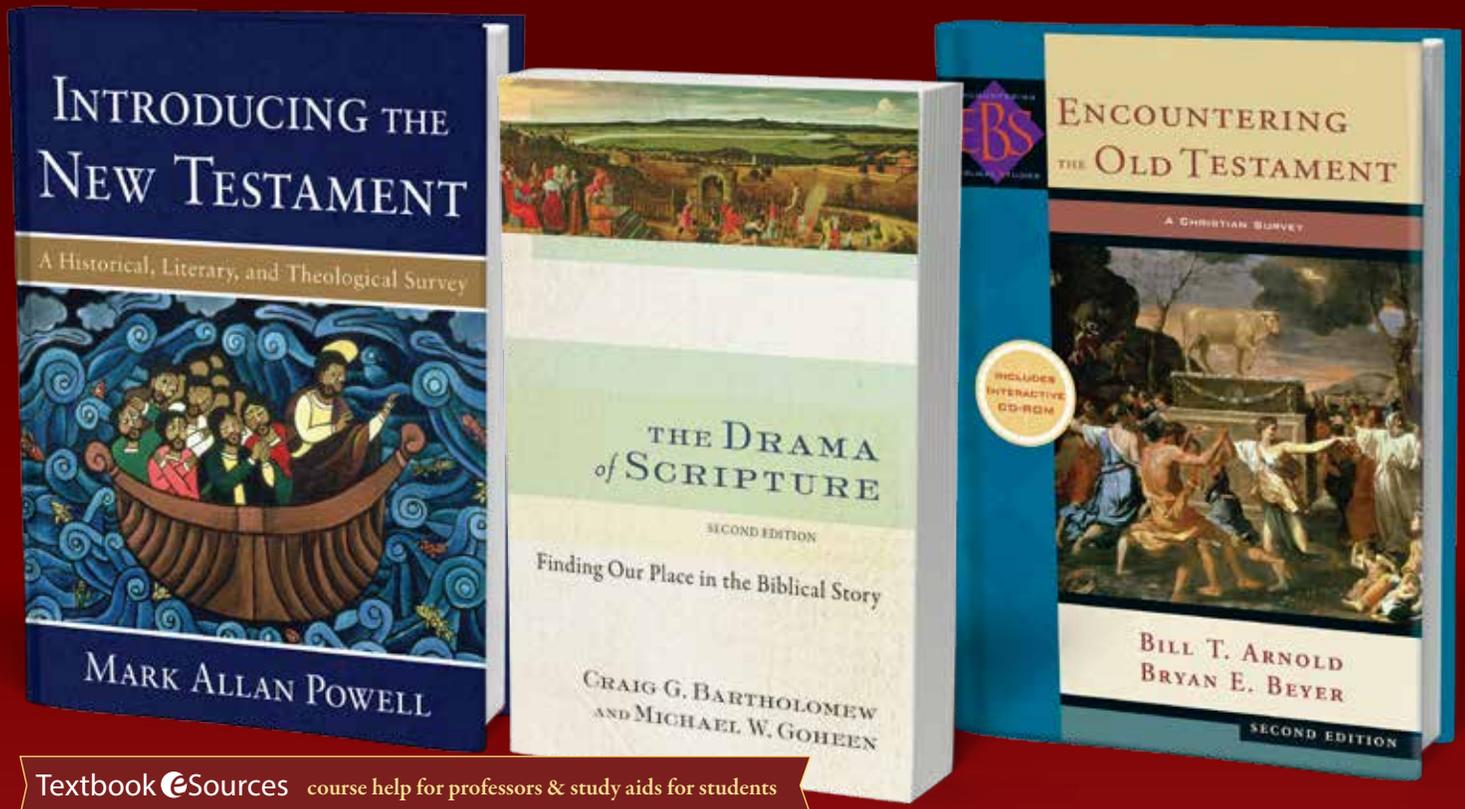
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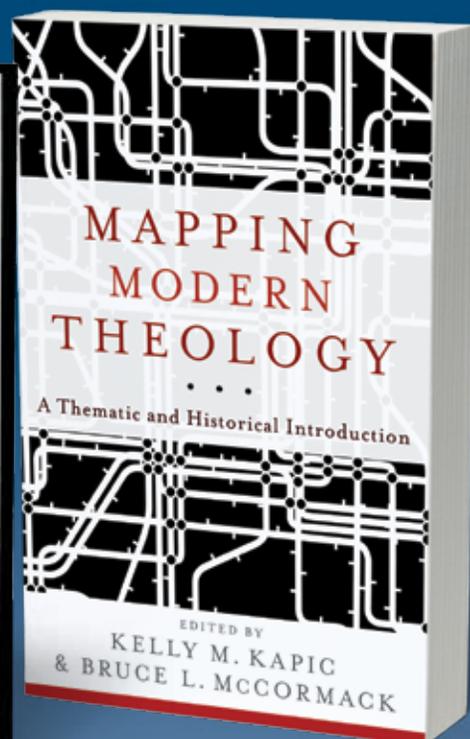
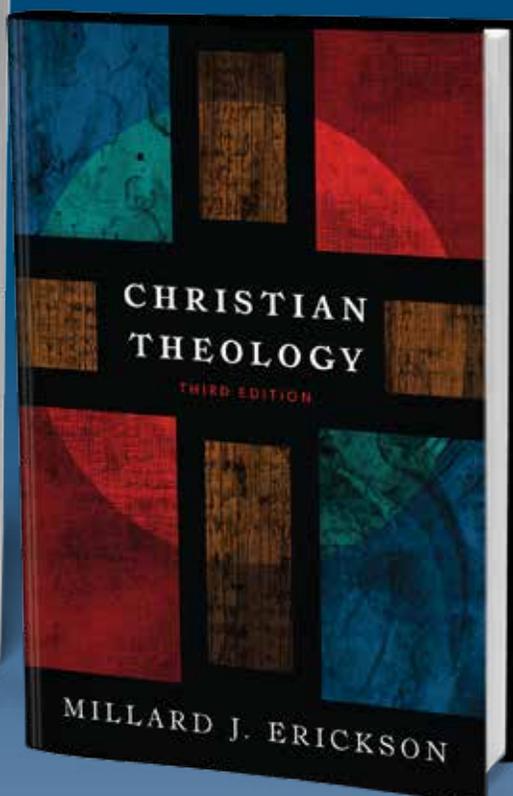
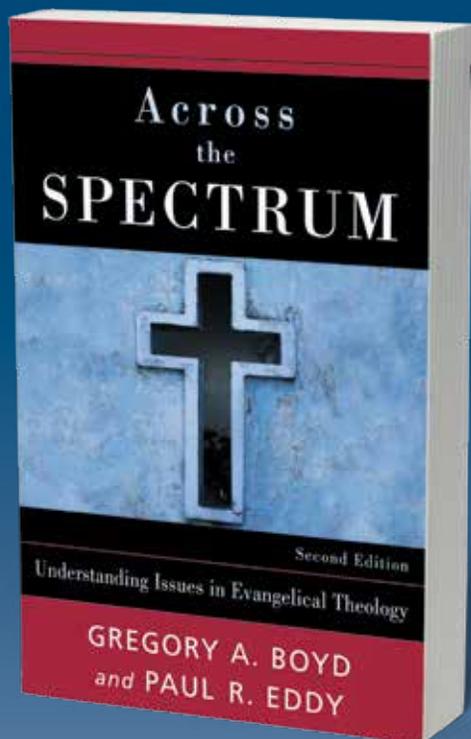
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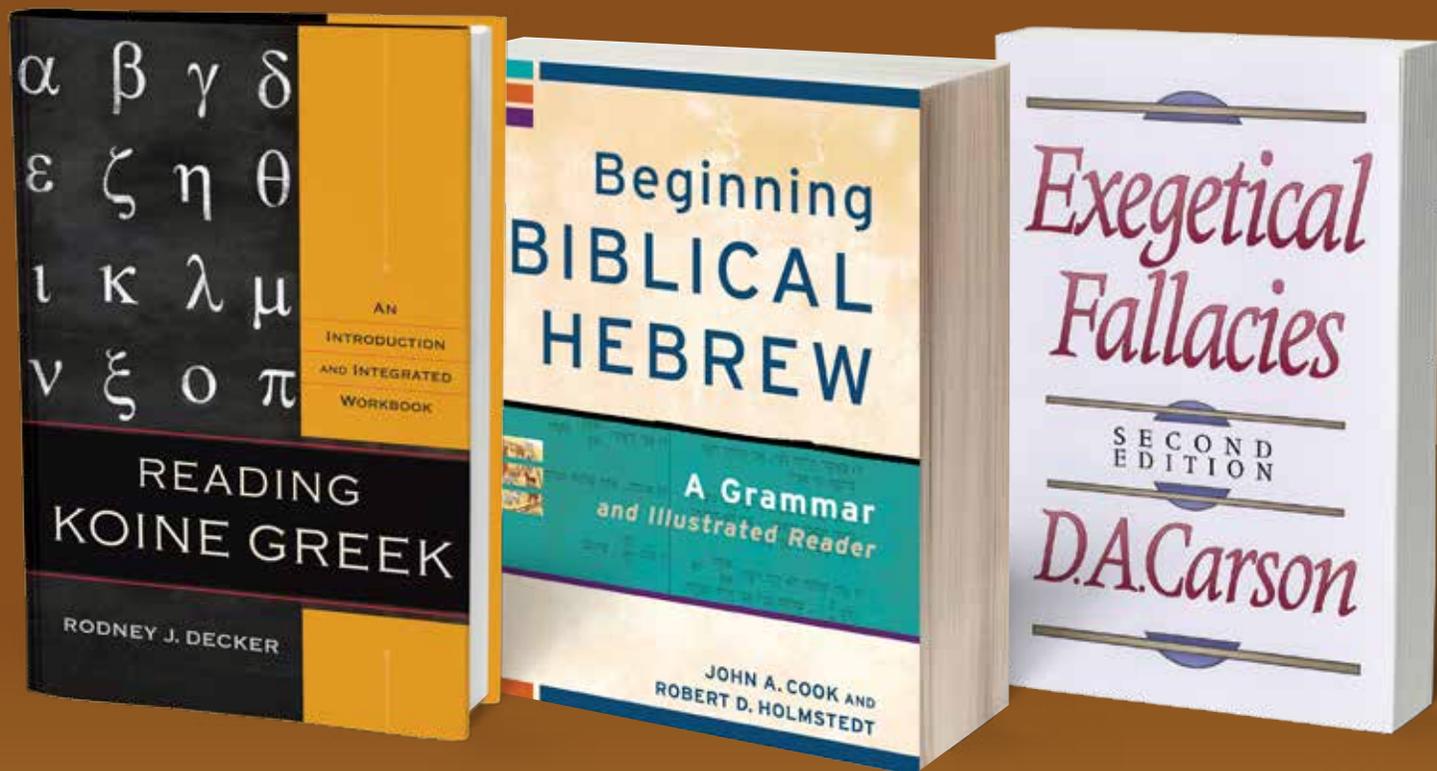
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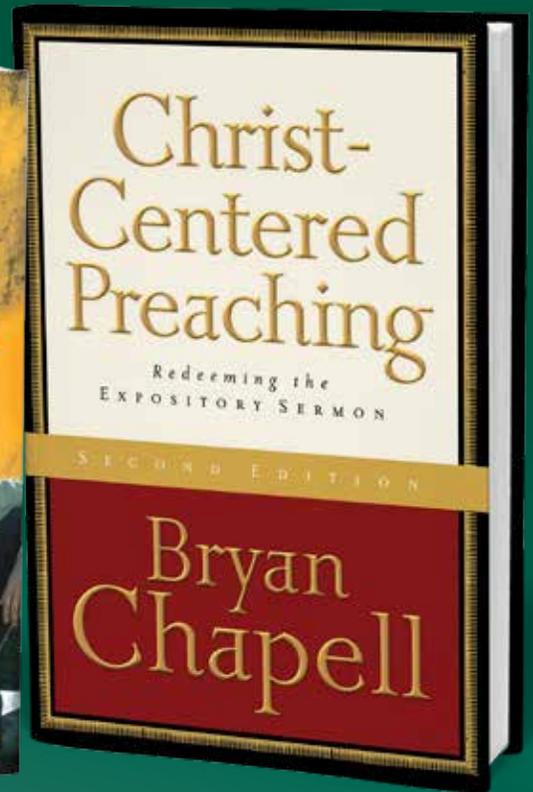
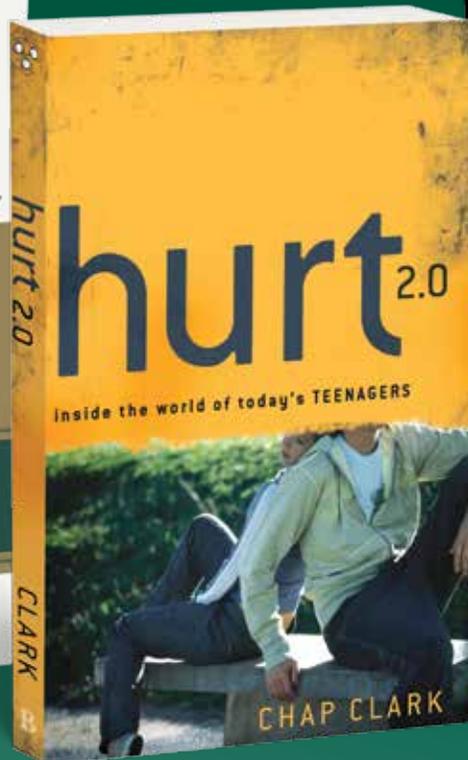
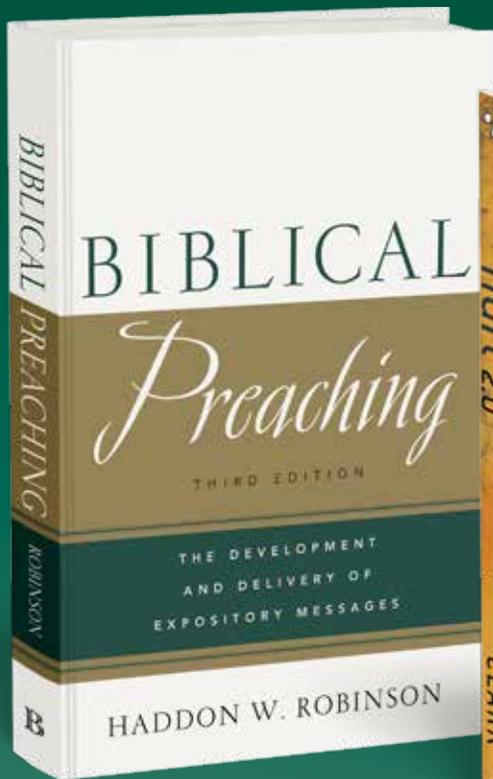
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