

For the Life of the World

Theology That Makes a Difference

Miroslav Volf and Matthew Croasmun

THEOLOGY FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

“*For the Life of the World* is the perfect riposte both to critics like Richard Dawkins who say that Christian theology is good for nothing and to theologians who are so focused on God that they overlook the world. Volf and Croasmun argue that theology makes a difference precisely because it is about human flourishing. This is a brave and bracing proposal to rethink theology’s role and relevance by recovering its original concern with the fundamental question of human existence: How do we live a flourishing life with others in this world, the home of God?”—**Kevin J. Vanhoozer**, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

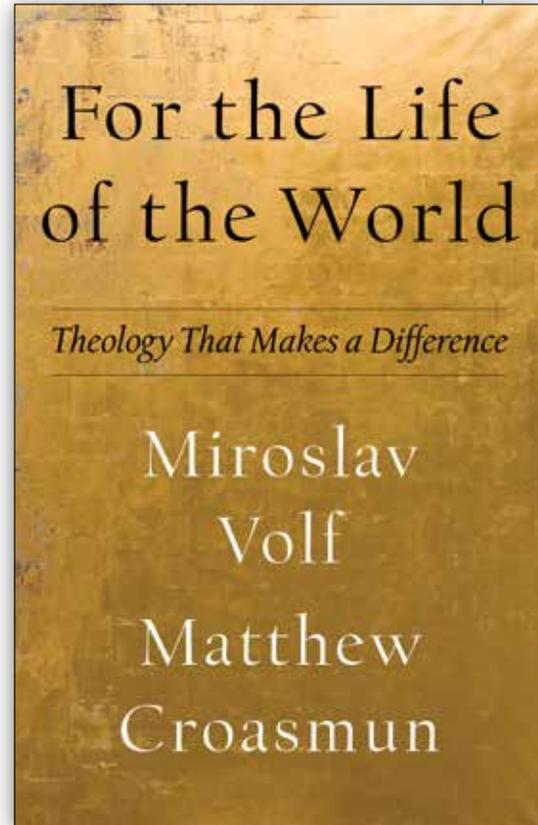
“This fascinating ‘manifesto’ reminds us all that theology can only matter if it engages what matters. While it is directed to theologians, it asks questions so fundamental to human life, and in language so ordinary and pellucid, that many people who are not at all theologians may find themselves caught up in this text. Which is, of course, their point. Highly recommended.”—**Charles Mathewes**, University of Virginia

“Theology is in something of a crisis with a dwindling audience and a reputation for irrelevance, both inside and outside the church, yet the church (and perhaps even the world) cannot survive long without theology. Volf and Croasmun make a bold and compelling proposal for a reorientation of the theological task to refocus it around articulating a Christian vision of flourishing life. This is a vitally important book for anyone interested in and committed to the future of theology, done for the sake of the church—and the world.”—**Graham Tomlin**, Bishop of Kensington; president, St. Mellitus College

“This is a timely work with which theologians across the spectrum need to contend—and there will be some contention. Volf and Croasmun mince no words in calling contemporary theologians to task for neglecting to offer theology that matters for the world. Theirs is a call to action rooted in the conviction that Christian theology really can make a difference.”—**Kristen Johnson**, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan

“In this timely and compelling book, Volf and Croasmun issue a clarion call for theologians, broadly understood, to articulate and live into a theology focused on how as humans we might cultivate forms of flourishing life as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”—**Luke Bretherton**, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke Divinity School

“The vision for theology presented here is simple but not easy. Volf and Croasmun think our task as theologians is to be about the flourishing not only of the academy or the church but also of all peoples. I challenge you to read this book and not come away encouraged, enlightened, and renewed for our task of contemplating God for the good of humanity.”—**Jason Byassee**, Vancouver School of Theology



Miroslav Volf (DrTheol, University of Tübingen) is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and founding director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He has written more than twenty books, including *A Public Faith*, *Public Faith in Action*, and *Exclusion and Embrace* (winner of the Grawemeyer Award in Religion and selected as among the one hundred best religious books of the twentieth century by *Christianity Today*). Volf was named “America’s New Public Intellectual” by Scot McKnight on his *Jesus Creed* blog.

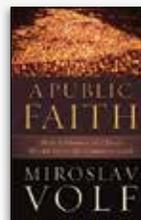
Matthew Croasmun (PhD, Yale University) is associate research scholar and director of the Life Worth Living Program at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He is also staff pastor at the Elm City Vineyard Church.



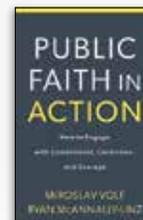
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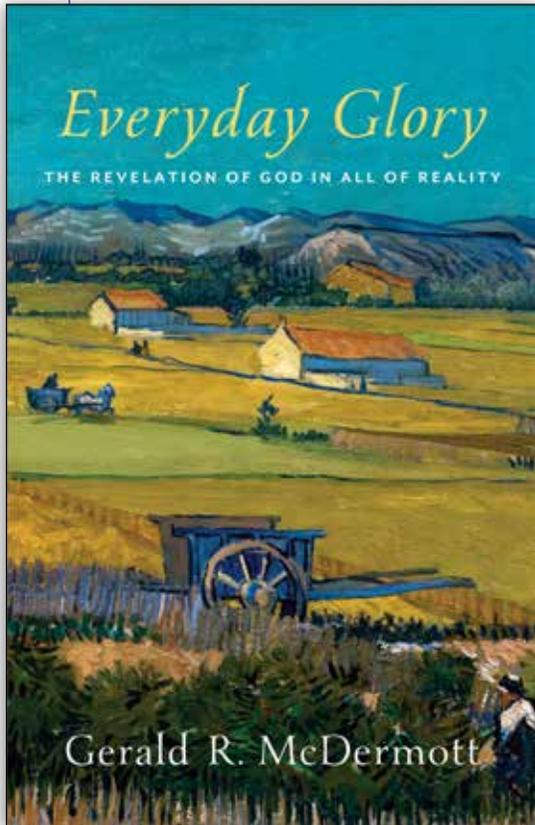
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Everyday Glory

The Revelation of God in All of Reality

Gerald R. McDermott

How do we know and speak about God and God's relation to the world? Does God reveal himself through his creation?

In *Everyday Glory*, widely respected theologian Gerald McDermott recaptures a Christian vision of reality that has been lost for most of the last century: that all the world is full of divine signs that are openings into God's glory. Bringing together insights from some of the tradition's greatest thinkers—Jonathan Edwards, John Henry Newman, and Karl Barth—McDermott resurrects a robust theology of creation for Protestants. He argues that contemporary Christianity must chart a course between “natural” and “revealed” varieties of theological reasoning and shows how and where meaning can be found outside the church and special revelation in various realms of creation, including nature, science, law, history, animals, sex, and sports.

ENDORSEMENT

“The ‘natural’ world McDermott describes is the world I want to inhabit—and sometimes do. Profound faith is required of those who want to live there constantly, far more faith than most moderns are able to muster every day. But for those with eyes to see and ears to hear its wondrous beauty, it is gleaming with an eternal weight of glory that exceeds our paltry efforts to reproduce, abstract, or counteract it. It enchants the bodily senses—and awakens the spiritual senses—with its still too elusive satisfactions.”—**Douglas A. Sweeney**, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

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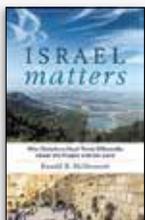
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Gerald R. McDermott (PhD, University of Iowa) is Anglican Chair of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. He previously taught at Roanoke College and is an Anglican priest. McDermott is the author, coauthor, or editor of numerous books, including *Israel Matters*, *Handbook of Religion*, *Famous Stutterers*, *The Theology of Jonathan Edwards*, *God's Rivals: Why Has God Allowed Different Religions?*, *Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?*, *World Religions: An Indispensable Introduction*, and *A Trinitarian Theology of Religions*. He has written for *Christianity Today*, the *Christian Century*, and *First Things*.

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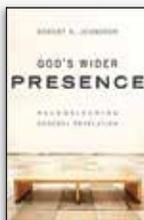
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Learning Theology through the Church's Worship

An Introduction to Christian Belief

Dennis Okholm

This book introduces students to theology with sustained attention to how Christian beliefs and the church's worship interact, both historically and in practice. Veteran theology teacher Dennis Okholm approaches the subject from the necessary intersection of theology and liturgy, showing that Christian belief and worship are inextricably related and that learning the church's doctrine apart from its worship undermines both.

Learning Theology through the Church's Worship flows as if the reader were participating in a service of worship. Although it uses examples from traditions that are more "liturgical," the spirit of the book is ecumenical. It features illustrative charts and figures that clarify challenging concepts and includes suggestions for assignments at the end of the book. This volume will benefit professors and students in introductory theology classes as well as pastors and church leaders.

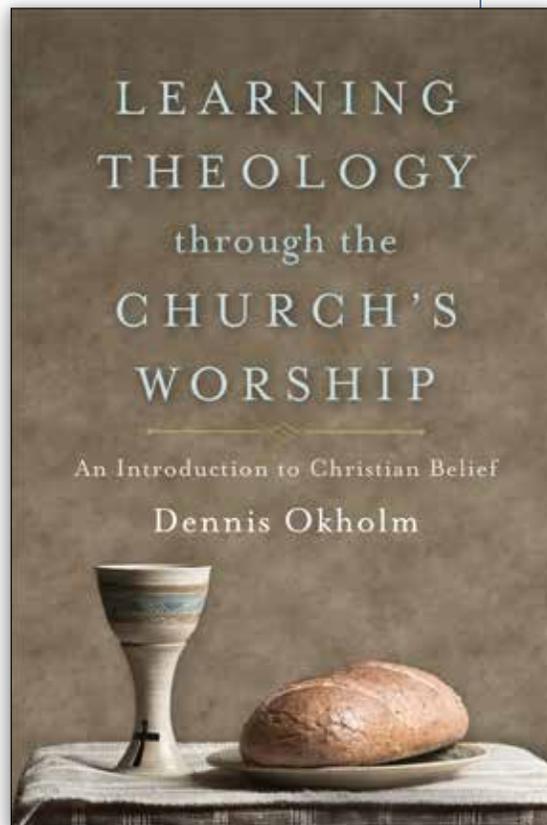
ENDORSEMENT

"In this terrific and timely book, Okholm demonstrates that the study of theology and the practices of worship ought to be close neighbors, constantly talking and learning from each other. Students will receive a double blessing in studying this book, because they will both learn the remarkably deep conversation of Christian theology and see with new eyes the rich theological implications of worship."—**Leanne Van Dyk**, Columbia Theological Seminary

EXCERPT

Whichever Christian community claims you, my hope is that this book will help you to see how the church's doctrine often arose out of its worship and, conversely, how its worship reflects its doctrine. (For instance, if you really want to know what someone believes, listen to her prayers and observe how she worships.) The book is even laid out as if it were a traditional Christian liturgy. (We'll discuss the meaning of the word *liturgy* later.) Beginning with the first chapter, the structure of the Christian liturgy (sometimes referred to as the *ordo* or "order") shapes the design of this text, beginning with the "gathering" and ending with the "dismissal." This will serve as a constant reminder that theology and worship should not be separated.

If you take a look at the table of contents, you will see that each chapter's title identifies where we are in the order of worship as well as what doctrine we will be considering. Sometimes the word or phrase that refers to our location in the liturgy may be unfamiliar, but not to worry: it will be explained in the chapter. In all but the chapter on the sacraments, an excerpt from the liturgy itself accompanies each chapter title or appears in the first paragraph or two. As you work your way through a chapter, it will become clear why we are discussing a particular doctrine in the context of one aspect of the worship service. Within each chapter, where it is appropriate, historical and theological connections will be made between the doctrine discussed and the church's liturgy.



Dennis Okholm (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is professor of theology at Azusa Pacific University and adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. He speaks frequently in church and youth group settings and serves as teaching pastor at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Costa Mesa, California. Okholm is the author or editor of many books, including *Dangerous Passions*, *Deadly Sins* and *Monk Habits for Everyday People*.

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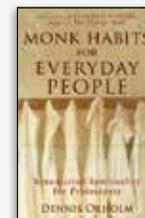


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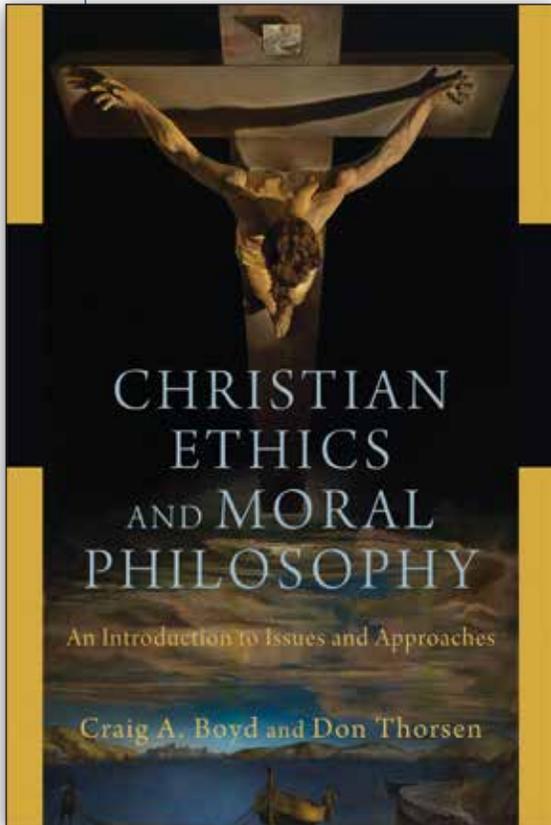


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Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy

An Introduction to Issues and Approaches

Craig A. Boyd and Don Thorsen

Theology and philosophy have both shaped contemporary culture and how people actually think about moral issues. This introductory textbook engages both traditions to present Christian philosophical and theological approaches to ethics.

Combining their expertise in philosophy and theology, Craig Boyd and Don Thorsen explain the beliefs, values, and practices of various Christian ethical viewpoints, addressing biblical teachings as well as traditional ethical theories that contribute to informed moral decision-making. Each chapter begins with Words to Watch and includes a relevant case study on a vexing ethical issue, such as caring for the environment, human sexuality, abortion, capital punishment, war, and euthanasia. Designed for use in the classroom, the book includes end-of-chapter reflection questions, illustrations, and additional information tables.

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Craig A. Boyd (PhD, Saint Louis University) is professor of philosophy at Saint Louis University. He has coauthored several books, including *Faith and Reason: Three Views* and *Virtues and Their Vices*. He has also published numerous journal articles and has presented at many scholarly conferences.

Don Thorsen (PhD, Drew University) is professor of theology, chair of the department of theology and ethics, and director of the Master of Divinity program at Azusa Pacific University. His previous books include *An Exploration of Christian Theology*, *What Christians Believe about the Bible*, and *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral*.

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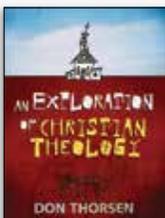
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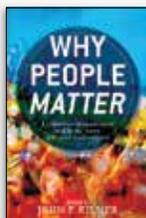
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Moral Leadership for a Divided Age

Fourteen People Who Dared to Change Our World

David P. Gushee and Colin Holtz

We can't help but be inspired by great leaders—those who led lives of moral purpose and in some way left the world a different and better place. Great moral leaders inspire, challenge, and unite us. In the midst of our increasingly divided age, examining remarkable leaders can help us understand the central qualities of moral leadership and discover lessons for our own lives and times. *Moral Leadership for a Divided Age* explores the lives of fourteen great moral leaders of recent centuries who are flawed in some ways, gifted in others, but unforgettable all the same.

ENDORSEMENTS

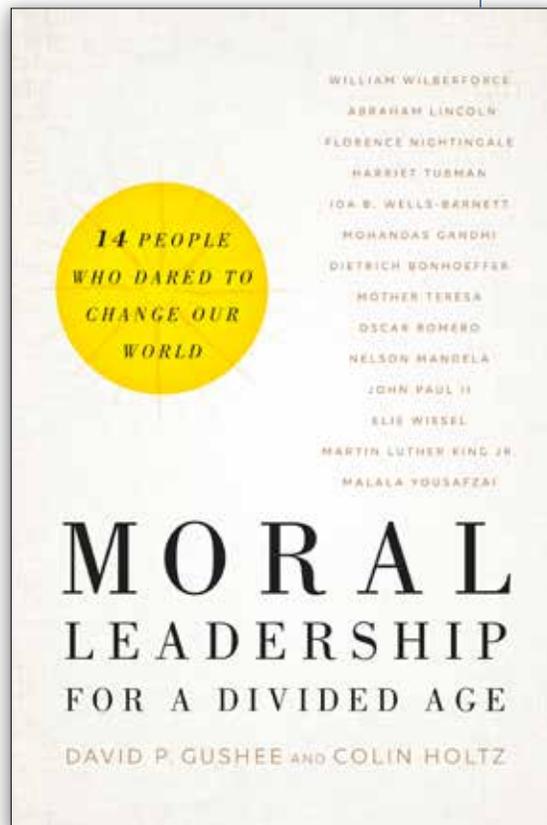
“This accessible and informative collection of carefully chosen biographies excels at showing how exemplary moral leaders mobilized followers and how they set about pursuing their lofty reforming goals. It offers a great deal of sharply focused historical insight but even more much-needed wisdom about how the virtues of past leaders can inspire the pursuit of justice and truth today.”—**Mark Noll**, author of *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*

“To ascertain and analyze great moral leadership in this contentious and divided era necessitates intellectual accuracy, social vulnerability, and faithful witness. In that spirit, Gushee and Holtz set a new standard in interdisciplinary as well as intersectional scholarship that has social relevance for our times.”—**Stacey Floyd-Thomas**, Vanderbilt University

“Gushee and Holtz have chosen excellent leaders as moral models for times like these. We need moral leadership now more than ever, and learning how each one of us can provide such leadership in our own circles of influence is the key to moving forward.”—**Jim Wallis**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *America's Original Sin*, president of *Sojourners*, and editor-in-chief of *Sojourners* magazine

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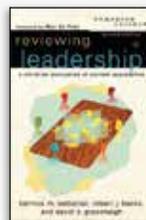
David P. Gushee (PhD, Union Theological Seminary) is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University. He serves as president of the American Academy of Religion and is immediate past president of the Society of Christian Ethics. Gushee is the author of twenty-two books; has served as a columnist for *Religion News Service*, *Christianity Today*, and *HuffPost*; and has been featured on Krista Tippett's NPR program *On Being*.

Colin Holtz is a ten-year veteran of issue advocacy and political campaigns. His writing has been published in the *Guardian* and *HuffPost*. He has led national campaigns on education debt and financial regulation, worked with CNN's *Crossfire*, and served as a senior adviser to Faithful America. Holtz will receive his Master of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in 2019.



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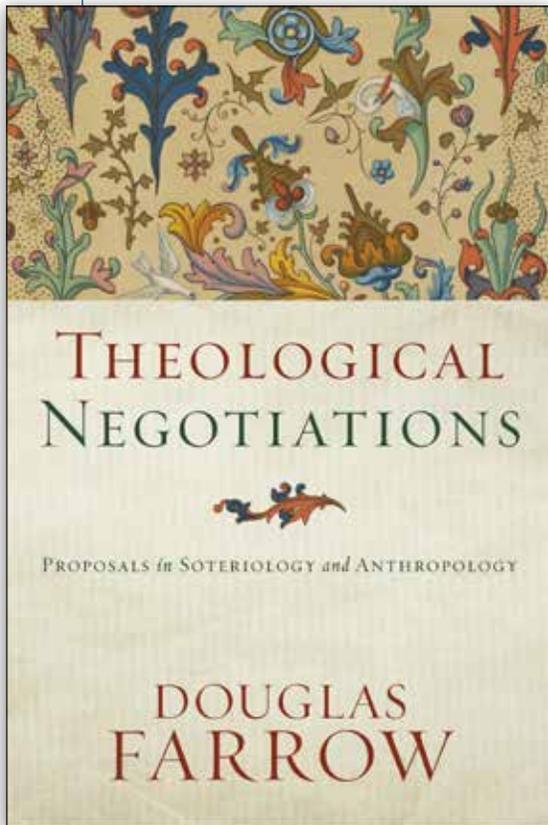
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Theological Negotiations

Proposals in Soteriology and Anthropology
Douglas Farrow

“Farrow offers a panoramic view of the crisis points in theology, combined with unpicking a number of long-standing theological knots. He is at home in the worlds of both Reformed and Catholic theology, and he brings the two together with recommendations for an irenic concordat. Farrow’s style is engaging; the essays could be appreciated for their literary qualities alone, quite apart from the theological insights they contain.”—Tracey Rowland, University of Notre Dame Australia

“This book will challenge Catholics and Protestants alike, for Farrow critically dissects some of the major issues that have divided and harassed them for five centuries. His knowledge of both traditions along with some of their major thinkers is impressive. For Farrow, being true to Scripture and right reason is essential to theology. Anyone serious about negotiating the philosophical and doctrinal complexities of ecumenical theology on those terms will find in Farrow a veteran envoy.”
—Thomas G. Weinandy, OFMCap

“All of the qualities we have come to expect of Farrow’s thought—precision, incisiveness, and mastery—are on full display in this series of compelling essays. Writing with the verve and vigor that are his hallmarks, Farrow mines and unhesitatingly challenges the best of the theological tradition—Irenaeus, Anselm, Aquinas, Luther, and Barth—shedding fresh light on crucial and seemingly intractable issues. Importantly, he accomplishes this with ecumenical concerns always in sight. *Theological Negotiations* is systematic theology at its finest.”—Thomas G. Guarino, Seton Hall University; cochairman, Evangelicals and Catholics Together

“Farrow is profoundly Catholic, while ecumenically sensitive. He is deeply learned and utterly challenging in these essays on soteriology and anthropology. He refuses to accept easy answers for anything. He draws from the tradition to think through matters most rigorously and originally.”—Gavin D’Costa, University of Bristol

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Douglas Farrow (PhD, King’s College London) is professor of theology and Christian thought in the School of Religious Studies at McGill University. He is also the project director for Pluralism, Religion, and Public Policy at McGill. He previously taught at King’s College London and has lectured widely in North America and Europe. Farrow is the author of several books, including *Ascension and Ecclesia*, *Ascension Theology*, and *Desiring a Better Country: Forays in Political Theology*.

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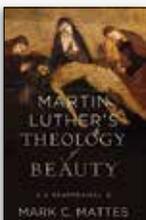
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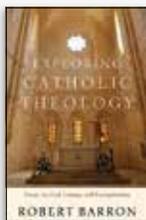
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“Guroian has achieved the standing both within his own tradition and ecumenically to be a theological advocate for the Orthodox Church who reflects what is often referenced simply as ‘the mind of the Church.’ This publication is a long-overdue resource for apostolic teaching and practice that will bring a grounded and time-tested treasure of what C. S. Lewis would call ‘mere Christianity’ to those searching for guidance in a time of rapid cultural change.”—**Chad Hatfield**, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

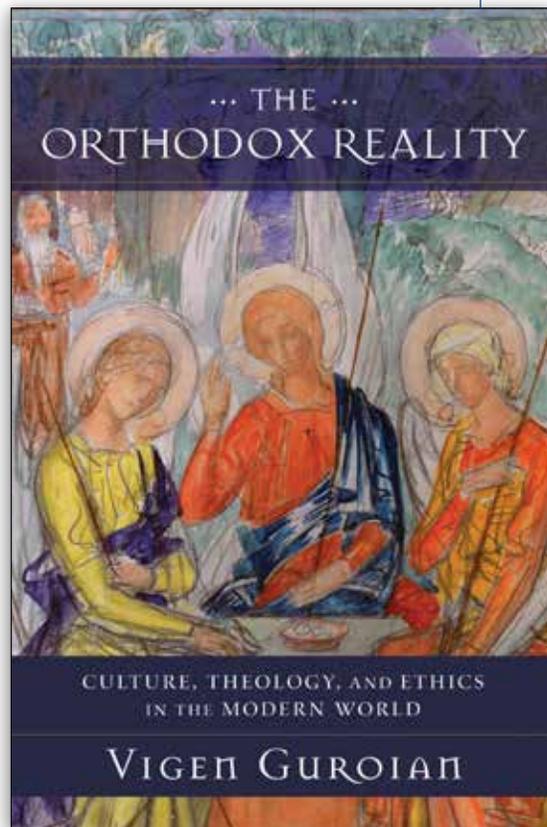
“This book is classic Guroian but now with the strong flavor of a highly experienced theologian looking back over a lifetime’s work. The book proves the point that no one can read Guroian without learning a great deal about the philosophy of culture. His sharp analysis of modernity makes him stand out like a prophet of Orthodoxy. If you seek someone who forces you to think through your view of Christianity in the modern world, I highly recommend *The Orthodox Reality*.”
 —**John A. McGuckin**, Columbia University

“Since Guroian is an Orthodox theologian, the temptation is to say we are fortunate to have someone able to draw on the insights of that tradition for those of us in the Western tradition. But that would not do Guroian or this book justice because Guroian is a theologian of insight who should be read to understand not what an Orthodox theologian thinks but how and what Christians in these confusing times should think and live.”—**Stanley Hauerwas**, Duke Divinity School

“Few contemporary writers are more trustworthy than Guroian on Orthodox Christianity. Here Guroian traverses familiar themes: the church as constituted through the act of worship, the centrality of the Holy Spirit, divine transcendence in a secular age. He also discusses papal primacy, marriage, parenthood, and childhood, all supported by references to the church fathers and contemporary Orthodox theologians.”—**Robert Louis Wilken**, University of Virginia

“This book invites readers to contend with the reality of Orthodoxy in its breadth and depth. Gathering the fruit of his scholarship in culture, theology, and ethics, Guroian develops a ‘theology of culture,’ with special attention given to the family, parenthood, and childhood. He juxtaposes cheerful optimism and sober realism as he encourages professors of religion to engage with what has become in their classrooms ‘the lost tribe’ of Christianity. His own interventions and suggestions go a long way to remedy the general silence concerning Orthodox Christianity after the time of the Cappadocians.”—**Edith M. Humphrey**, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Secretary of the Orthodox Theological Society in America

“The author laments the lack of Orthodox thinkers in university departments of theology and in seminaries in this country. These sophisticated and eminently readable essays indicate how necessary the Orthodox voice is.”—**Lawrence S. Cunningham**, University of Notre Dame

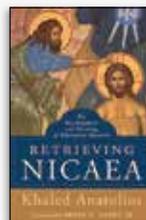


Vigen Guroian (PhD, Drew University), now retired, previously served as professor of religious studies and Orthodox Christianity at the University of Virginia. He is the author of numerous books, including *Incarnate Love: Essays in Orthodox Ethics* and *The Melody of Faith: Theology in an Orthodox Key*.

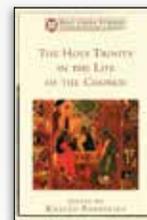
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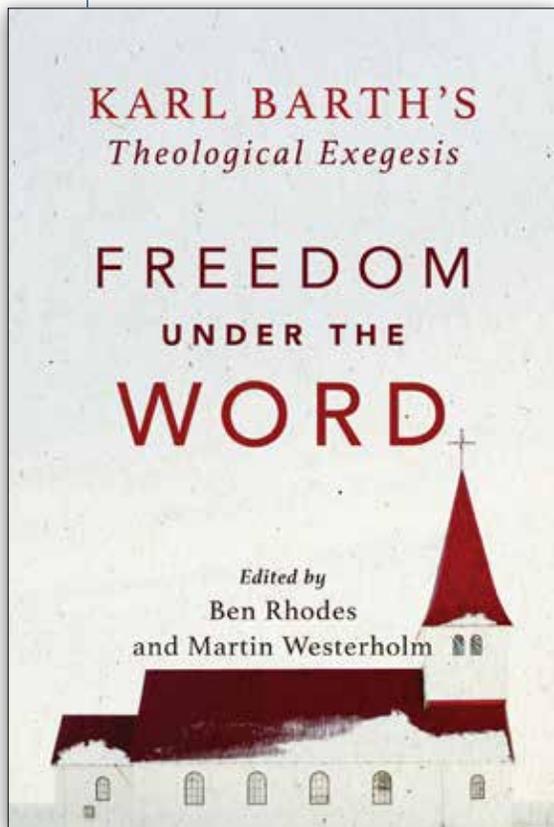
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In *Freedom under the Word*, top-tier scholars offer critical engagements with Karl Barth's exegesis of Christian Scripture and explore its implications for contemporary hermeneutics and biblical interpretation. Focusing on rare texts from the Barth corpus, this volume considers the legacy and potential of Barth's theology by presenting a wide-ranging engagement with and assessment of Barth's theological exegesis. The book covers Barth's career chronologically, providing insight into his theological development as it relates to Scripture. *Freedom under the Word* will benefit professors and students of theology, biblical interpretation, and the theological interpretation of Scripture as well as Barth scholars.

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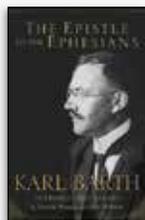
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Ben Rhodes (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is manager of academic studies at the Christian Institute on Disability at the Joni and Friends International Disability Center in Agoura Hills, California. He also teaches at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University.

Martin Westerholm (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is senior lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. He previously taught at Durham University. Westerholm is the author of several books, including *The Ordering of the Christian Mind: Karl Barth and Theological Rationality*, and is the managing editor of the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*.

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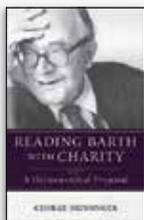
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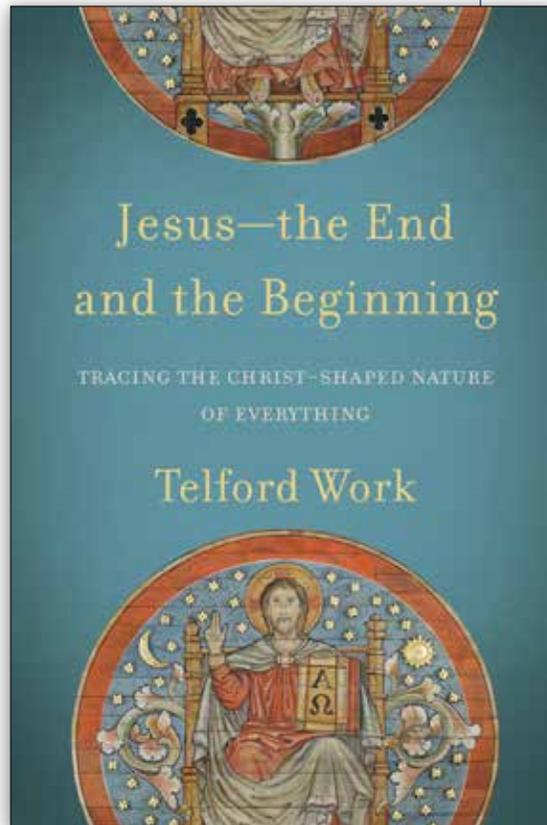
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Telford Work (PhD, Duke University) is professor of theology and chair of the department of religious studies at Westmont College. He is the author of several books, including *Ain’t Too Proud to Beg: Living through the Lord’s Prayer*, *Living and Active: Scripture in the Economy of Salvation*, and *Deuteronomy in the Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible* series. He has written articles for numerous publications, including *Christianity Today*, *Theology Today*, and *Pro Ecclesia*.


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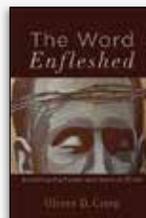
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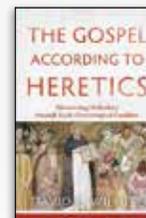
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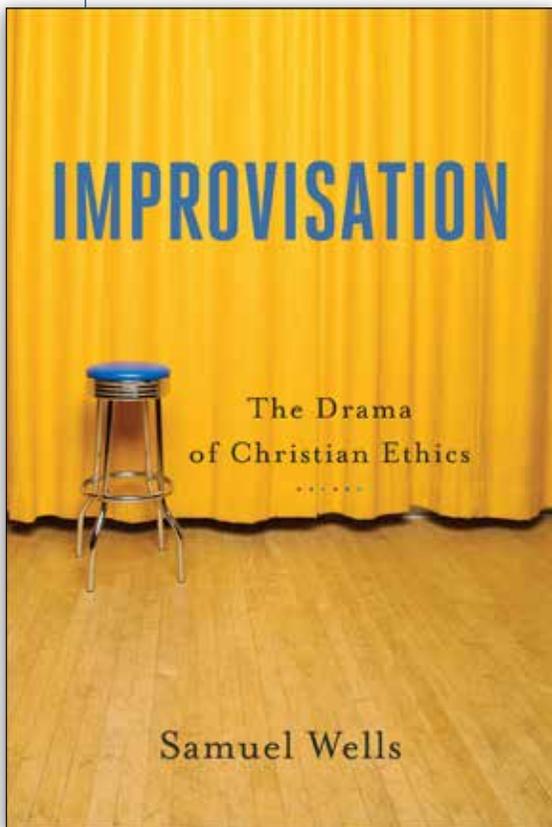
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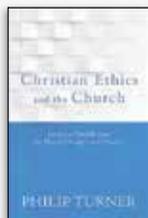
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Samuel Wells (PhD, University of Durham) is vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church at Trafalgar Square in London and visiting professor of Christian ethics at King’s College. He previously served as dean of the chapel and research professor of Christian ethics at Duke University. Wells is the author or coauthor of numerous books, including *Be Not Afraid*, *Transforming Fate into Destiny: The Theological Ethics of Stanley Hauerwas*, and *Esther & Daniel* in the Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible series. He also coedited, with Stanley Hauerwas, *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics*.

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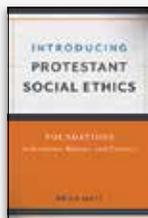
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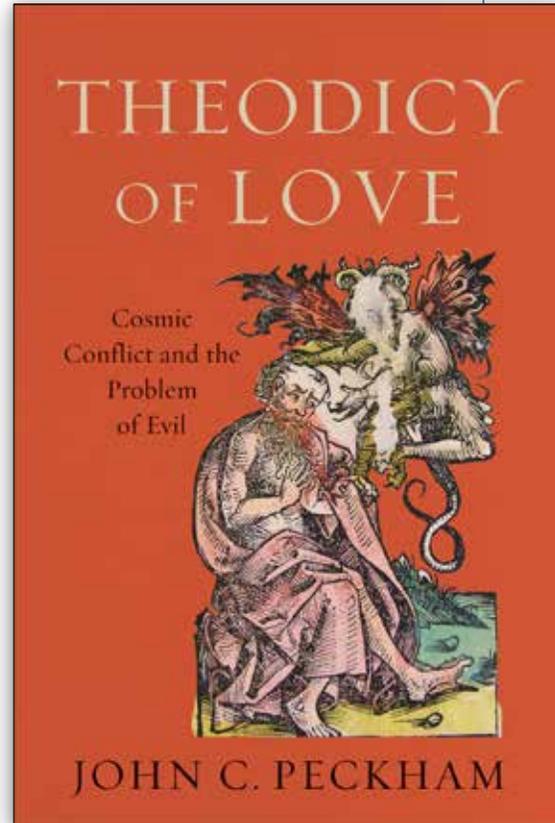
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EXCERPT

Although motivated by the relationship between how one conceives of God's relationship to evil and how one experiences evil, this book is not aimed at providing an approach to the religious or existential problem of evil, which demands book-length consideration of its own. Whereas addressing the religious or existential problem of evil concerns how people should deal with their experience of suffering and evil, this book focuses on the philosophical problem of evil (in its logical and evidential forms), which is concerned primarily with how one might understand the problem of evil and reconcile it with the goodness and love of God.

One unhelpful way to deal with the philosophical problem of evil is to attempt to downplay the problem itself, suggesting (even if only implicitly) that evil is not so bad after all. Rather than justifying evil and injustice, even implicitly, we should abhor them and stand resolutely against them. Whatever else we say about the philosophical problem, we should never attempt to downplay the horrendous evil and suffering in this world. My limited goal in this book is to try to understand, from the vantage point of Christian theism, how to coherently hold that God is entirely good and all-powerful, despite the evil in this world.

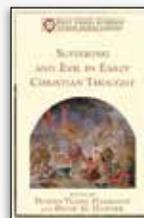


John C. Peckham (PhD, Andrews University) is professor of theology and Christian philosophy at Andrews University. He is the author of several books, including *The Love of God: A Canonical Model*, *Canonical Theology*, and *The Concept of Divine Love in the Context of the God-World Relationship*.

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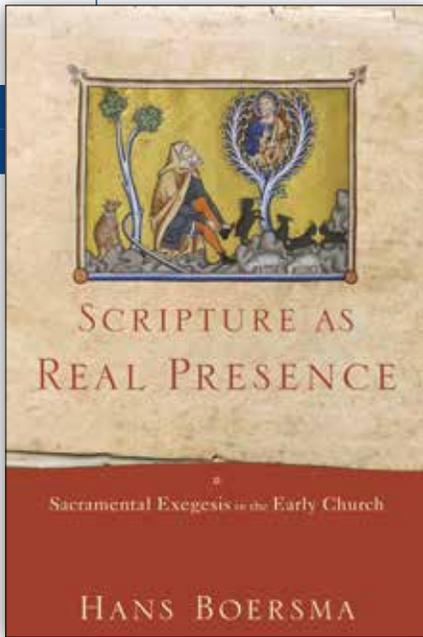


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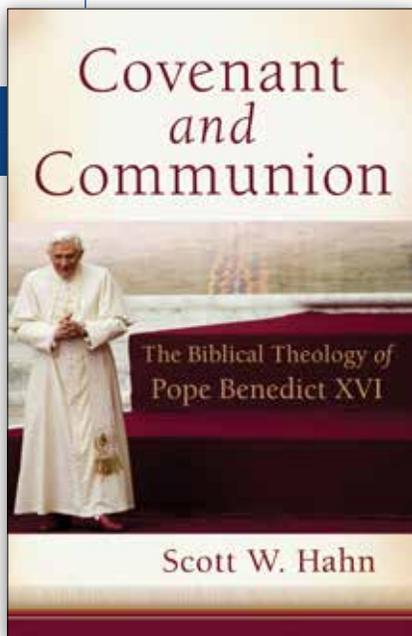
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Scott W. Hahn (PhD, Marquette University) is the Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, Chair of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville and is founder and president of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology. He is the author or editor of more than forty books.

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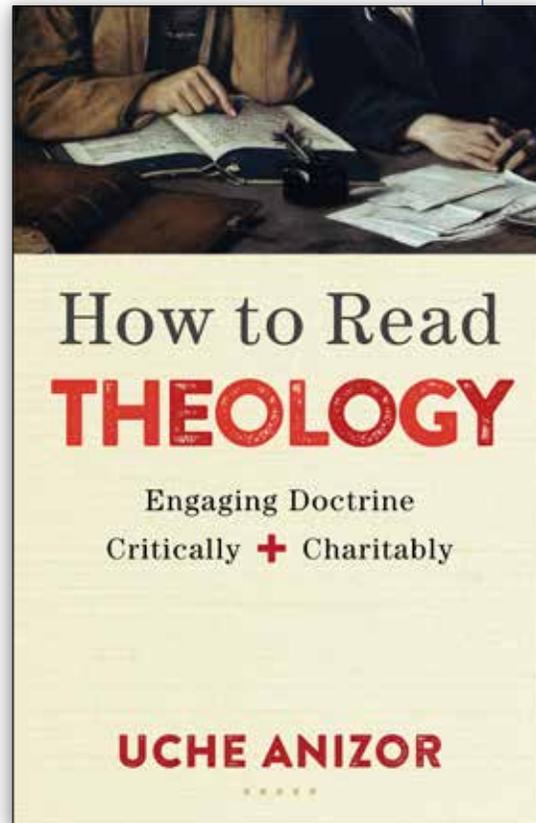
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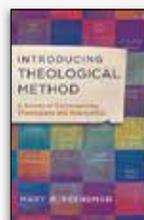


Uche Anizor (PhD, Wheaton College) is associate professor of biblical and theological studies at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Representing Christ: A Vision for the Priesthood of All Believers*.


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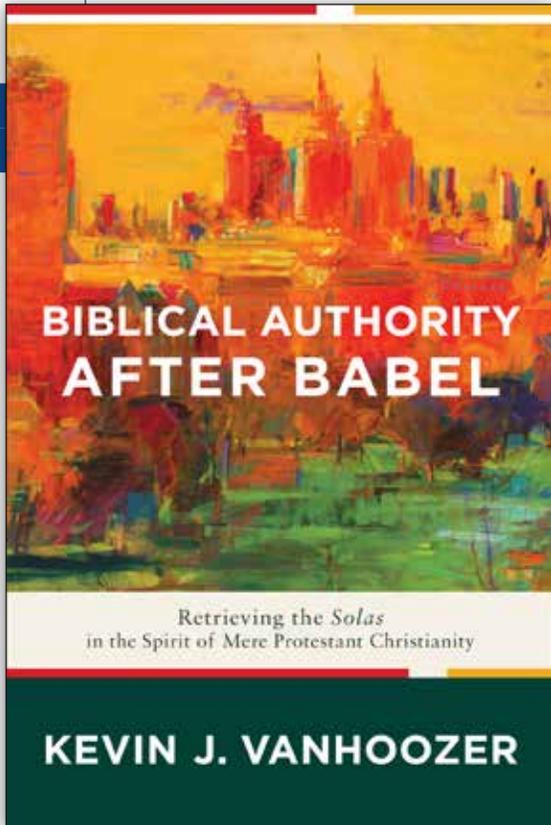


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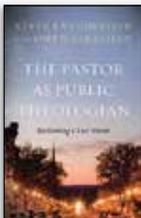
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Kevin J. Vanhoozer (PhD, University of Cambridge) is research professor of systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He previously taught at Wheaton College and the University of Edinburgh. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *The Pastor as Public Theologian*, *Everyday Theology*, *The Drama of Doctrine*, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, and the award-winning *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*.



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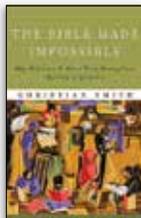
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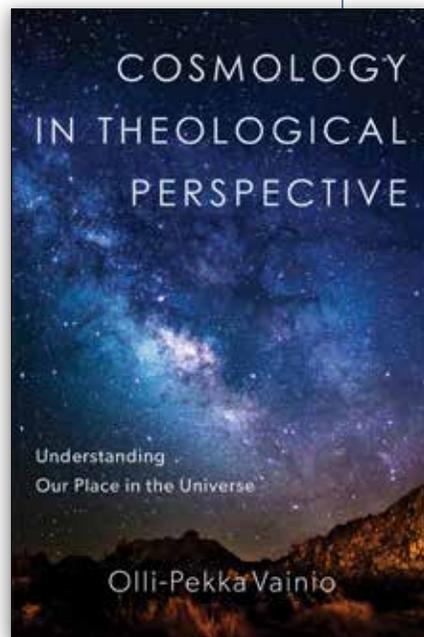
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Olli-Pekka Vainio (DrTheol, Habil, University of Helsinki) is university lecturer of systematic theology in the faculty of theology at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He previously served as a resident scholar at the Center of Theological Inquiry and taught at the University of Oxford. Vainio has written or edited numerous volumes.



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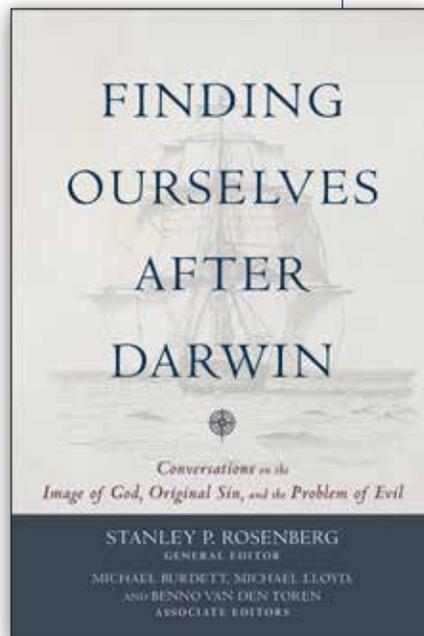
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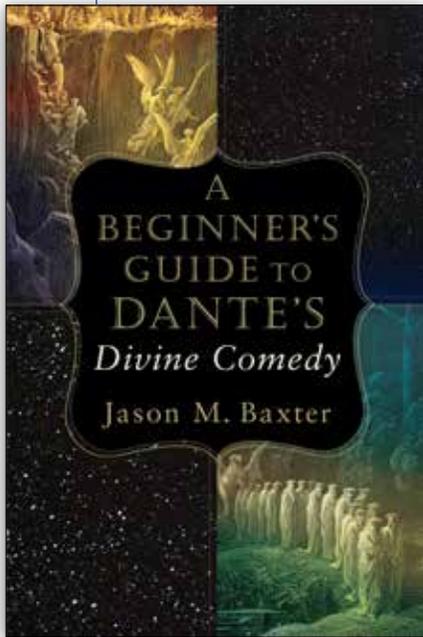
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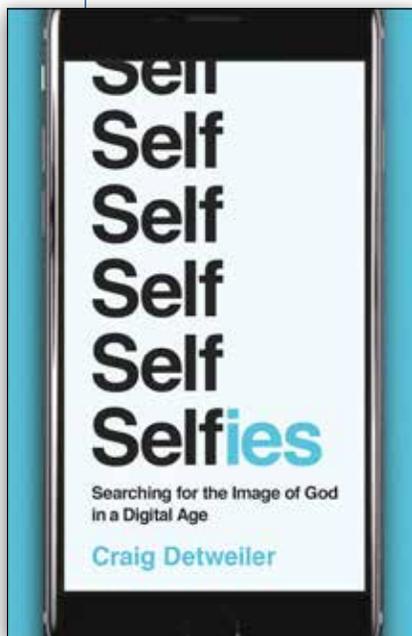
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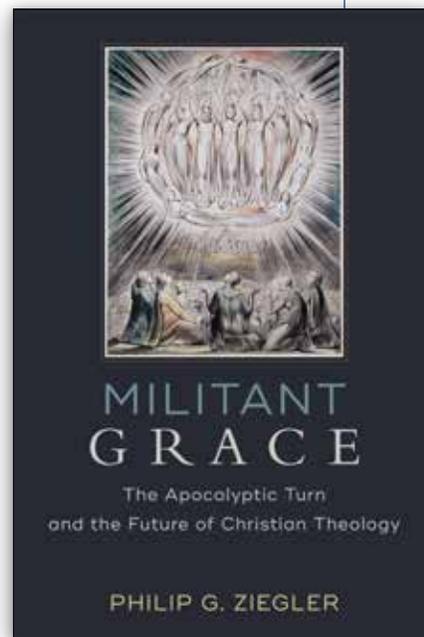
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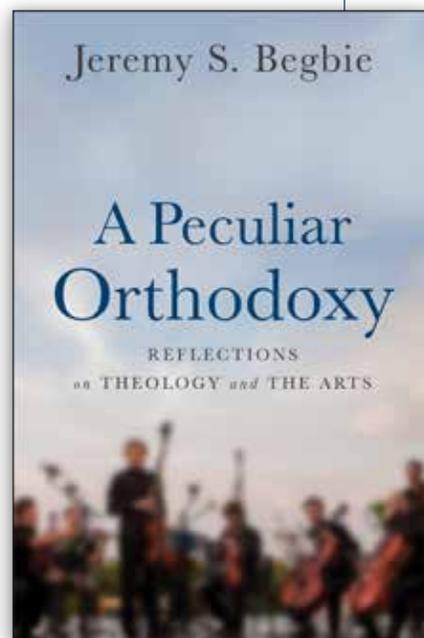
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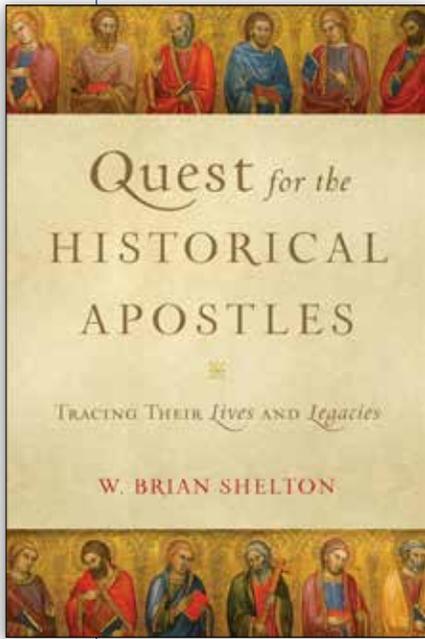
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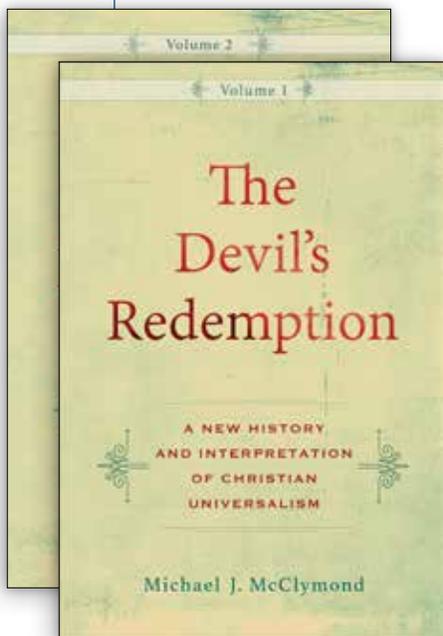
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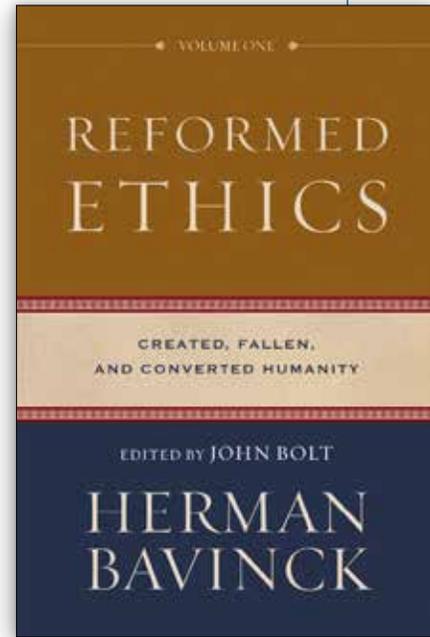
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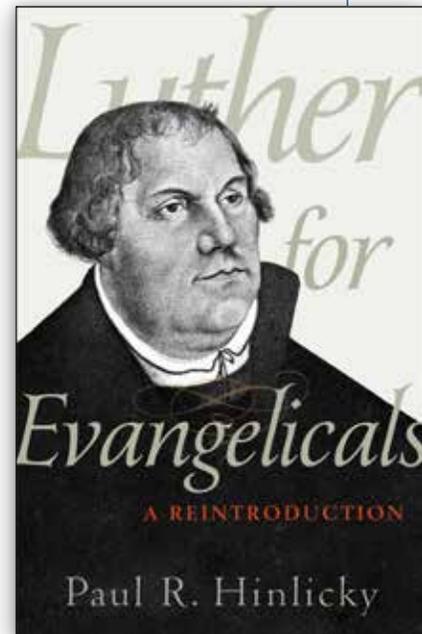
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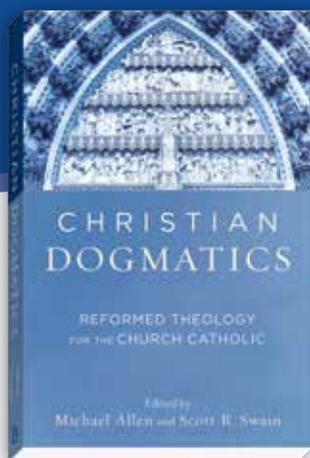


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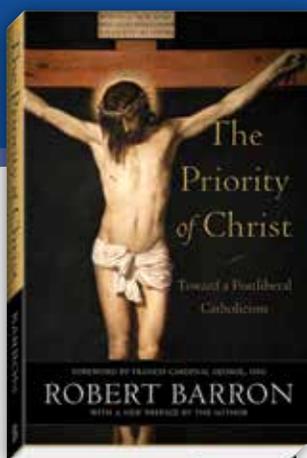
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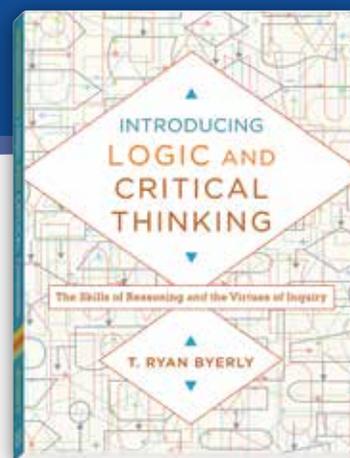
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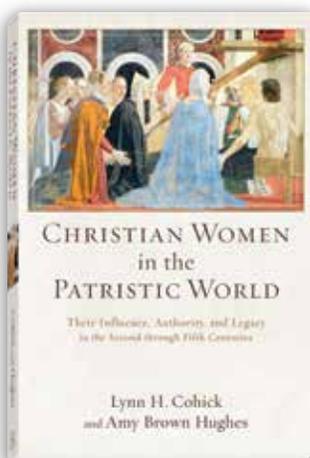


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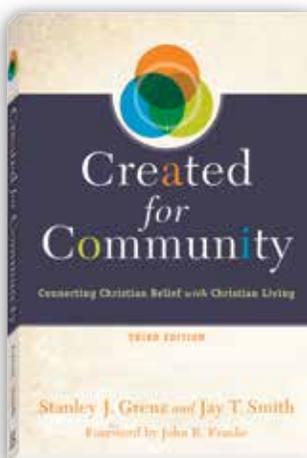
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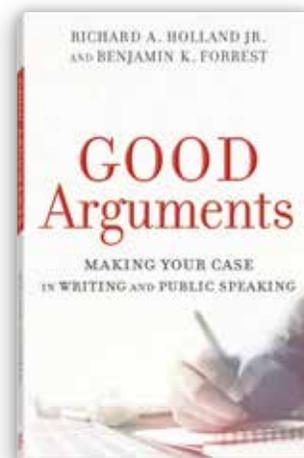
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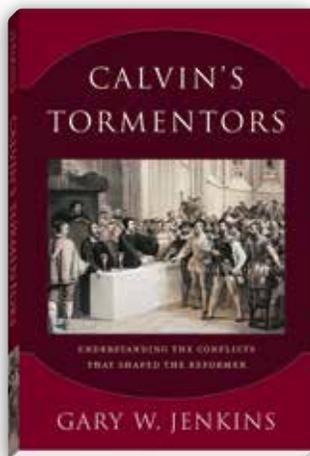
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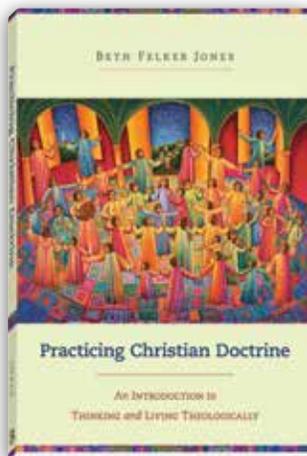
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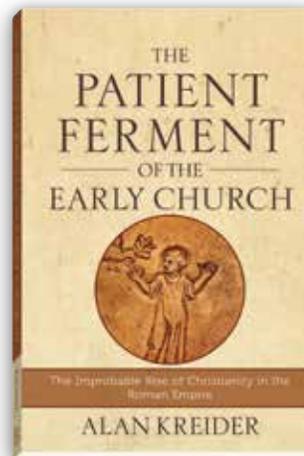
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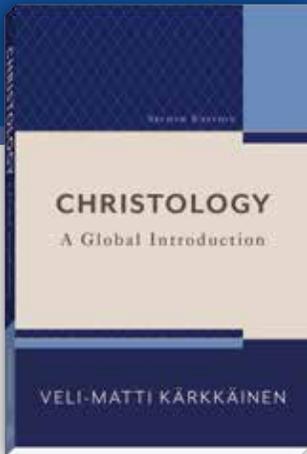
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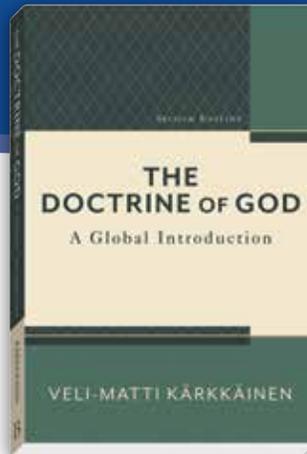
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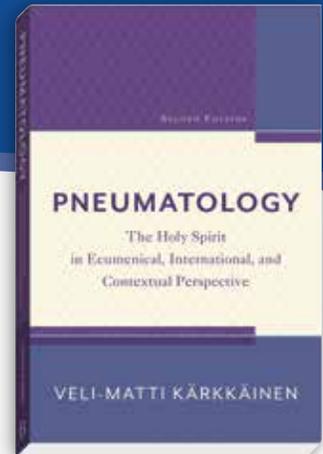
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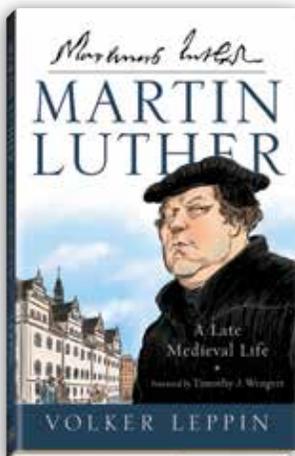
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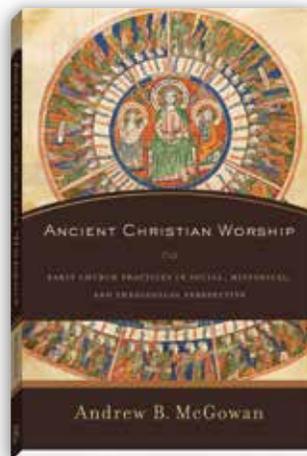
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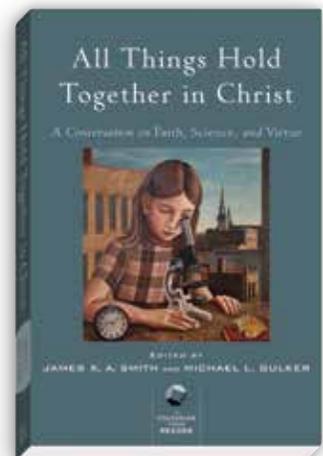
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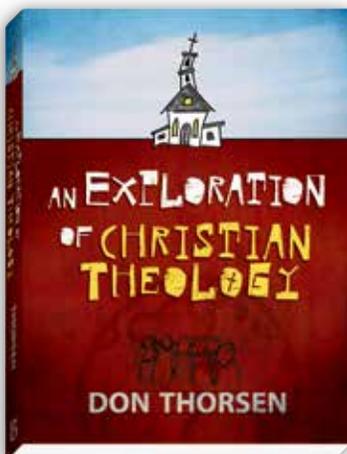
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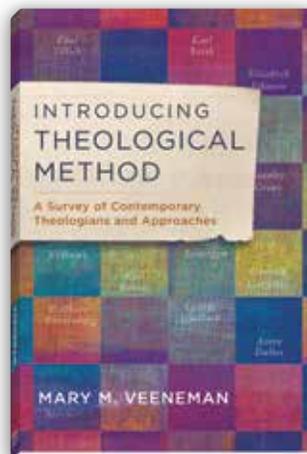
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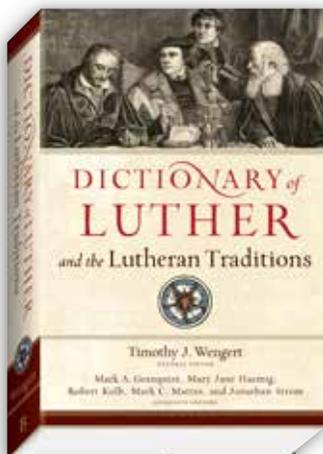
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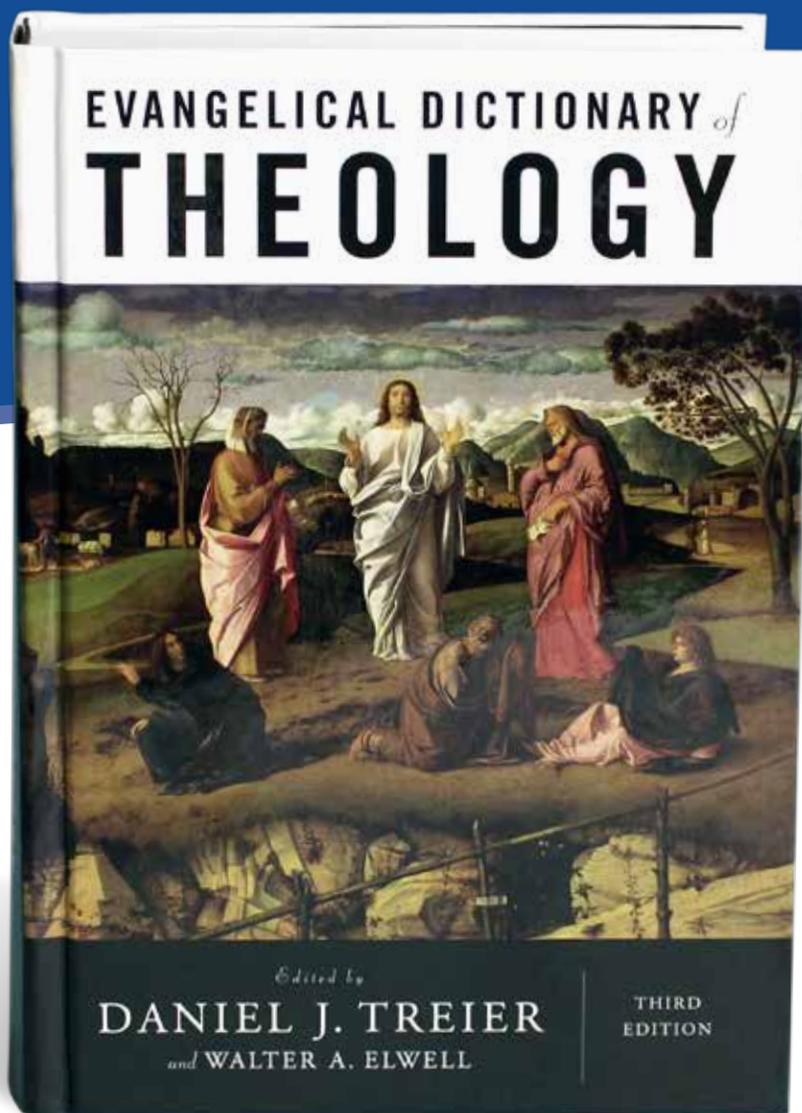


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