

The Culture of Theology
John Webster; Ivor J. Davidson
and Alden C. McCray, editors

“This volume provides the reader with a wonderful and welcome chance to reflect carefully with John Webster on the task of theology—its methods, sources, contexts, purpose, and character. The lectures presented here leave one inspired and encouraged, yet also gloriously unsettled by the vocation of theology and its demands. Complete with an illuminating introduction by Ivor Davidson, this work comes highly recommended.”—**Paul Nimmo**, University of Aberdeen

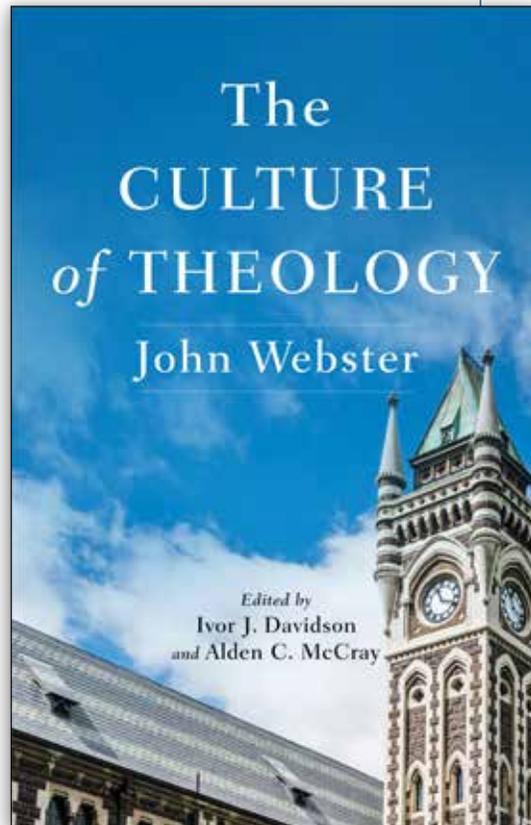
“Why would a theologian as God-centered as John Webster be constantly ruminating on theology’s culture, theology’s tasks, Christian tradition, university faculties, and so forth? He does so in order to meet his hearers in the midst of their (our) theologically scandalous loss of interest in God and Christ and to call out: God is summoning you; the eschaton (Christ himself) has broken in among you; Scripture is speaking Christ’s Word to you in the Spirit! When Christ is recognized for who he is, theology can rediscover itself for what it is: a joyful response to the risen Lord. Let theologians be Christians and thereby really have something to say to one another, to the university, and to the wider world.”—**Matthew Levering**, Mundelein Seminary

“How wonderful to have Webster’s *Culture of Theology* edited and made available to a new generation of readers in this fine book. I count myself fortunate to have had the challenge in these chapters—to strive to think of theology, its methods, aims, and practices, *theologically*—put to me during my student days and to have been compelled to wrestle continuously with the possibilities and perils of doing theology in the eschatological space created by the ‘staggering good news of Jesus Christ.’ This book stands as a winsome invitation to others to do the same.”—**Philip G. Ziegler**, University of Aberdeen

“This book is vintage John Webster—a stringent but also generous summons to let theology be about nothing less than God. It is the best account of what it means to be a theologian *existentially* since Karl Barth’s *Evangelical Theology*.”—**Joseph Mangina**, Wycliffe College, Toronto School of Theology

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- 5. Criticism: *Revelation and Disturbance*
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John Webster (1955–2016; PhD, University of Cambridge), one of the world’s most significant systematic theologians, was latterly professor of divinity at the University of St. Andrews. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2005. He published widely on the nature and practice of Christian theology.

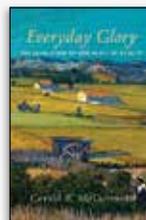
Ivor J. Davidson (PhD, University of Glasgow) is honorary research professor at King’s College, University of Aberdeen. He previously held chairs in systematic and historical theology at the University of Otago and the University of St. Andrews. He has written extensively on Christian doctrine and on patristic theology and history.

Alden C. McCray is a PhD candidate at the University of St. Andrews.



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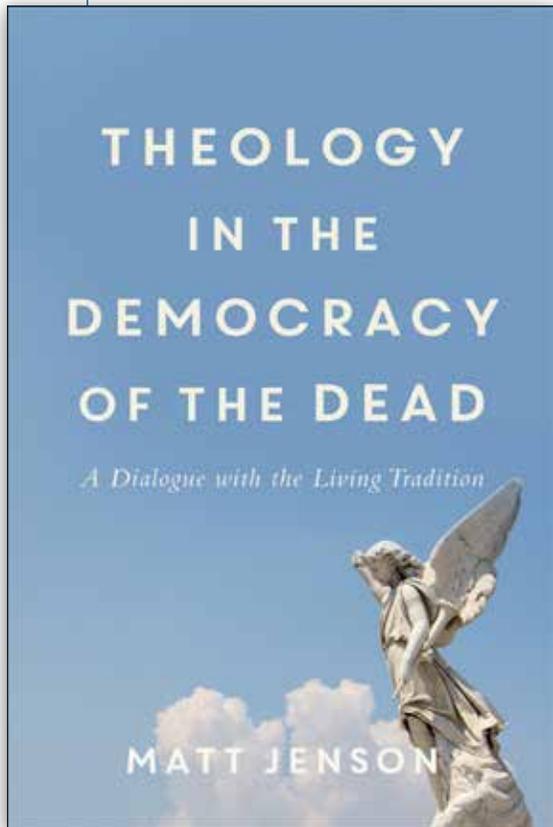
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Theology in the Democracy of the Dead *A Dialogue with the Living Tradition*

Matt Jenson

“*Theology in the Democracy of the Dead* is a lively and accessible—and yet also deeply considered—set of conversations with some of the Christian tradition’s most vivid and powerful voices. Again and again these voices from the past come to life in response to Jenson’s queries and exclamations. A first-rate example of truly dialogical theology.”
—**Alan Jacobs**, Honors College, Baylor University

“Jenson deserves our deepest thanks for extending this superb invitation to apprenticeship with some of the finest thinkers ever to walk the face of the earth. I hope and pray that many readers will respond with close attention, advancing in Christian discipleship in communion with the saints.”—**Douglas A. Sweeney**, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

“Conversation lies at the heart of the theological enterprise, conversations with great minds of the past in particular. Dispelling damaging caricatures with a largely sure touch, Jenson converses with eleven diverse Christian theologians from across the centuries. By doing so, he engages with many of the key issues of Christian theology. These essays will surely generate further conversation.”—**Frances Young**, University of Birmingham

“This book has been years in the making. It is a serious engagement with some of the most formative minds in the Christian tradition, written by one of the most thoughtful and careful theologians working today. Jenson has given us a rich and rewarding work full of conversations with those who, though dead, yet speak.”—**Oliver D. Crisp**, University of St. Andrews

“I wish everyone could be in the classroom with this master teacher; now his classroom expands, and all of us can follow his guidance.”
—**Michael Allen**, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

Matt Jenson (PhD, University of St. Andrews) is associate professor of theology in the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University. He has written *The Gravity of Sin: Augustine, Luther, and Barth on ‘homo incurvatus in se’* and (with David Wilhite) *The Church: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Jenson is ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

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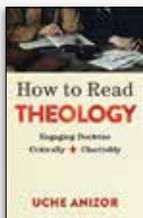
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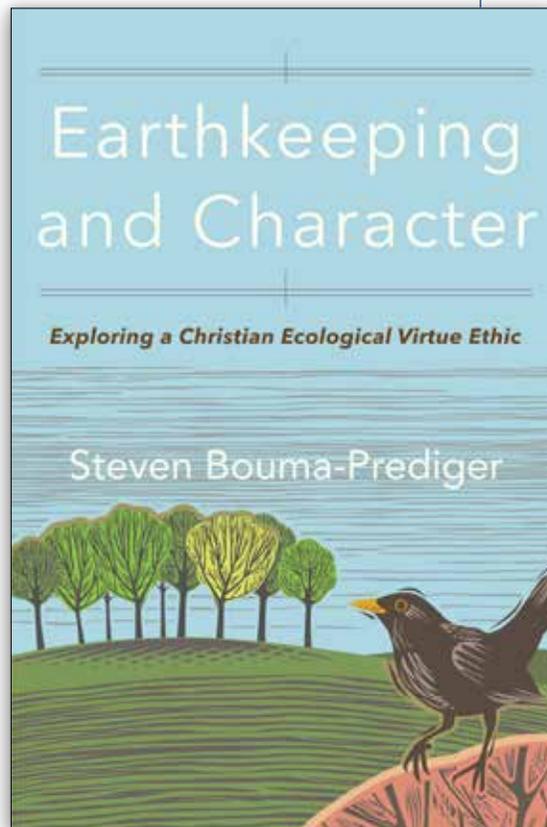
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“I remember precisely where I was when I first read Bouma-Prediger’s groundbreaking *For the Beauty of the Earth*. In the end, it woke me up to Christ’s call to care for the earth. One might struggle to imagine how he could top that prophetic book. He has done it. What Bouma-Prediger has accomplished in this book for God’s people is breathtaking: a startling call to become people of character and virtue through caring for the planet God put us on. This book will change the way we think about discipleship. And it will change the way we think about how a disciplined people can transform the world.”—**A. J. Swoboda**, author of *Subversive Sabbath*

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Steven Bouma-Prediger (PhD, University of Chicago) is Leonard and Marjorie Maas Professor of Reformed Theology at Hope College. He also oversees the Environmental Studies minor and chairs the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee. In addition, Bouma-Prediger is adjunct professor of theology and ethics at Western Theological Seminary. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books, including *For the Beauty of the Earth*, is a former board member of the Au Sable Institute, and regularly writes and speaks on environmental issues.

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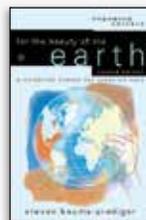
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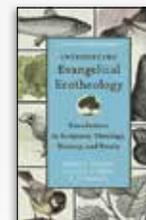
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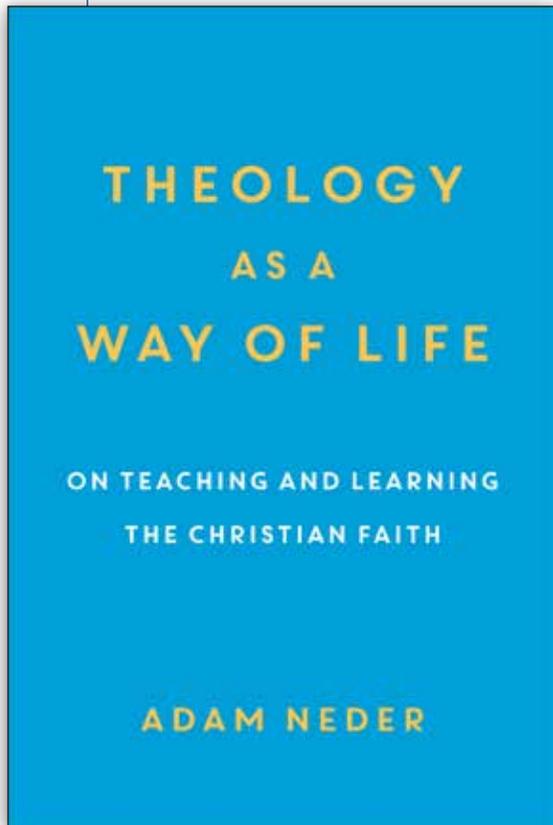
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ENDORSEMENTS

“This is the book I wish I could have read when I started teaching over thirty years ago. Ironically, much literature on theological pedagogy these days is woefully bereft of theology. Every page of this book takes its ultimate cue, materially and formally, from the Christ-shaped gospel itself—in all its disturbing and heart-wrenching glory. At the same time, the text is jargon-free, utterly honest, and obviously born out of years of classroom experience. It is simply superb.”—**Jeremy Begbie**, Duke Divinity School

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“Neder has written a beautiful, profound book, one which will reward multiple readings. What comes to expression here is the ‘impossible possibility’ of teaching theology, and the kind of ‘theological existence’ the teacher must herself reflect if she wants her students to know that this human impossibility is nonetheless, by God’s grace, possible. This is a book that stands in favorable comparison with Barth’s *Evangelical Theology*. Surely, a book for our times—and for all times.”—**Bruce McCormack**, Princeton Theological Seminary

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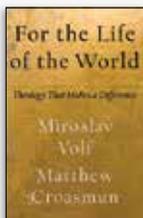
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Adam Neder (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is Bruner-Welch Professor of Theology at Whitworth University and is the author of *Participation in Christ: An Entry into Karl Barth’s Church Dogmatics*. He has been voted Most Influential Professor by four Whitworth senior classes.

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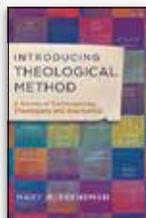
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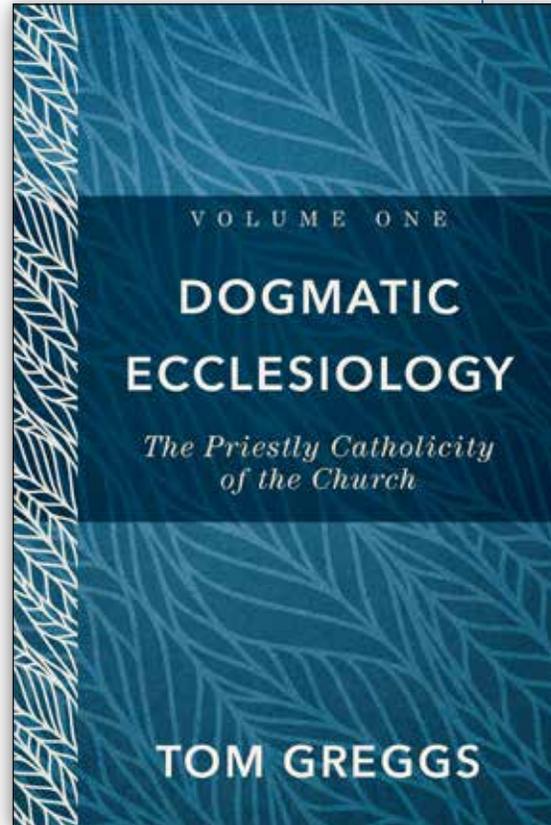
Tom Greggs

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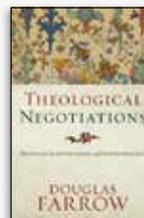


Tom Greggs (PhD, Cambridge University) holds the Marischal Chair of Divinity at the University of Aberdeen and is a founding codirector of the Aberdeen Centre for Protestant Theology. He previously taught at the University of Chester and the University of Cambridge. Greggs has written several books, including *Theology against Religion: Constructive Dialogues with Bonhoeffer and Barth* and *Barth, Origen, and Universal Salvation: Restoring Particularity*. He has also served on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

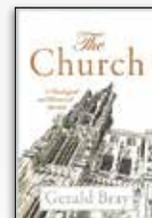

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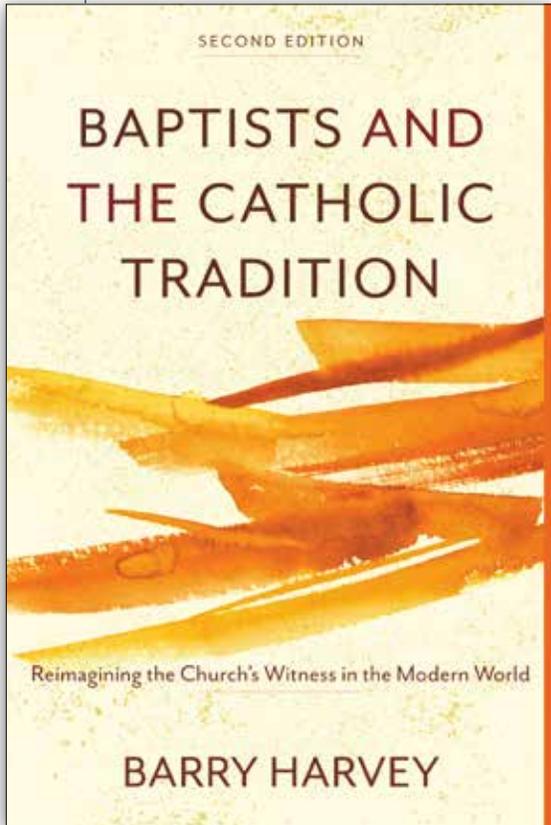
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"Harvey's cultural critique is penetrating and his suggestions for moving forward are insightful and practical. . . . I commend this book to all thoughtful Christians that are interested in the intersection of church and culture."—**Patrick S. Franklin**, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*

Barry Harvey (PhD, Duke University) is professor of theology in the Honors College at Baylor University and has served as a theologian and teacher in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He is the author of *Another City: An Ecclesiological Primer for a Post-Christian World* and *Taking Hold of the Real: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Profound Worldliness of Christianity* and coauthor of *StormFront: The Good News of God*.

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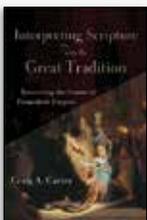
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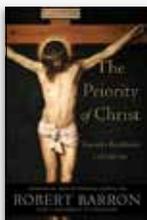
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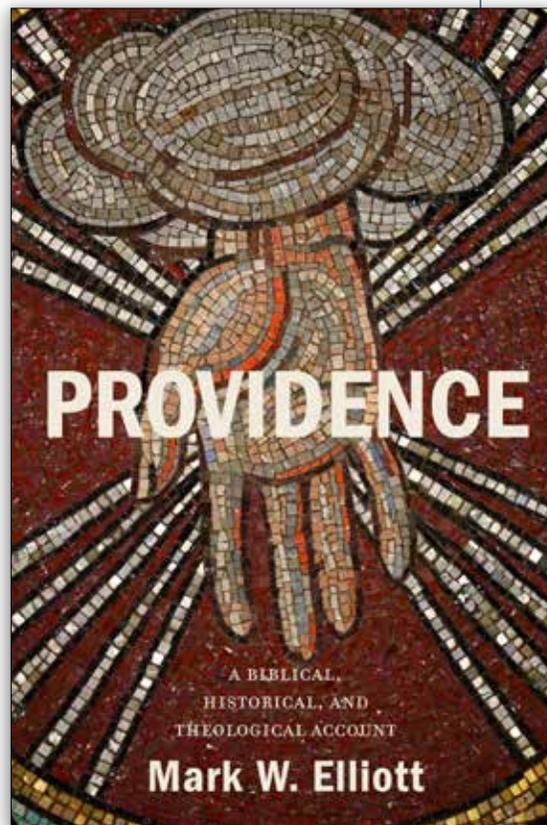
Mark W. Elliott

This book by a leading scholar of Christian theology and exegesis is a capstone of years of research on the history and theology of the doctrine of providence. Addressing a topic of perennial interest in Christian theology, Mark Elliott offers a constructive account of the doctrine of providence and shows that, contrary to received opinion, the Bible has a lot to say about providence as a distinct doctrine within the wider scope of God's acts of salvation.

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Mark W. Elliott (PhD, University of Cambridge) is professor of divinity and biblical criticism at the University of Glasgow. He previously taught at the University of St. Andrews, where he directed the Institute for Bible, Theology, and Hermeneutics. Elliott is the author of numerous articles and essays and has written several books, including *Providence Perceived*. He is also the coeditor, with Scott Hafemann, N. T. Wright, and John Frederick, of *Galatians and Christian Theology*.


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April 2020

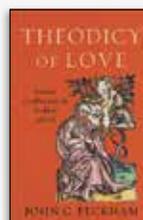
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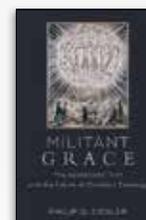
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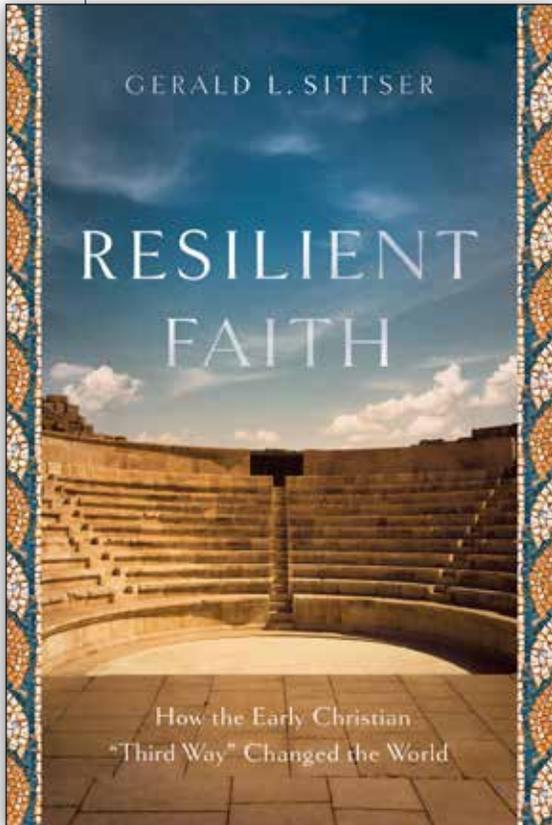
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“I wish I could make this exceptional new book required reading for all contemporary Christians. Exploring the formative role of worship and the intentional process of formation that developed in the early church, Sittser helps us look back so that we can more faithfully move forward in our complex cultural moment, embodying our faith in ways that eschew both accommodation and separation. If you have appreciated the works of Alexander Schmemmann, Jamie Smith, Kevin Vanhoozer, or Sam Wells, you will love this book.”—**Kristen Deede Johnson**, Western Theological Seminary

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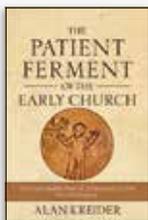
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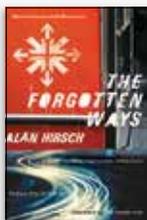
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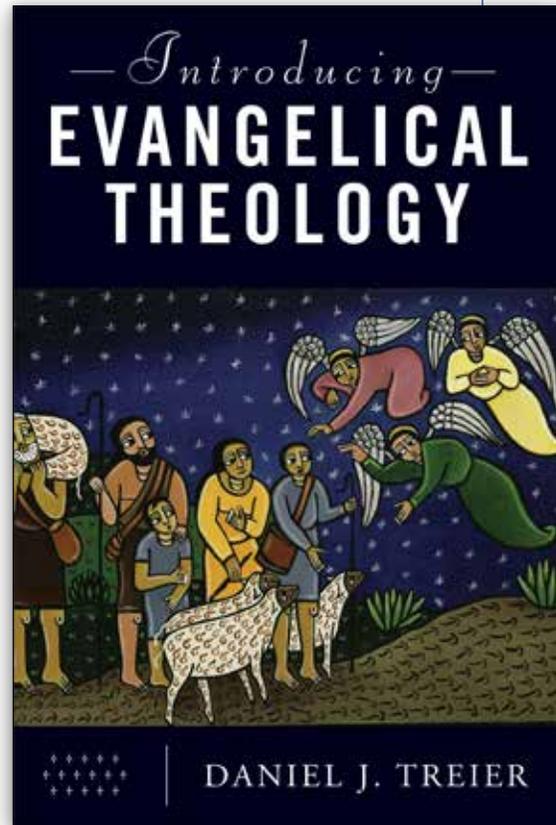
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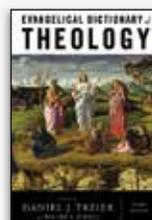
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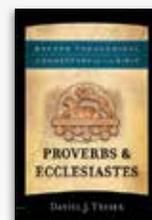
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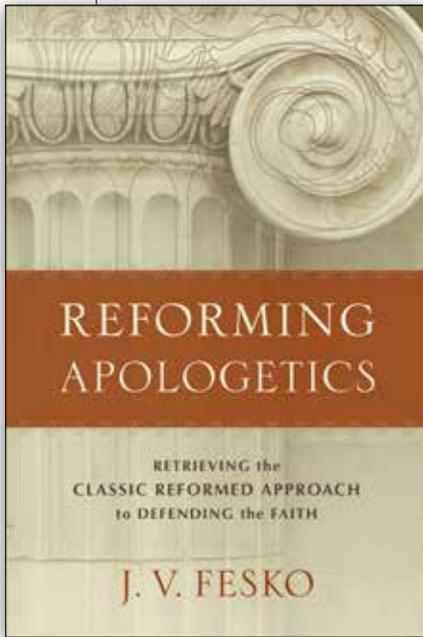
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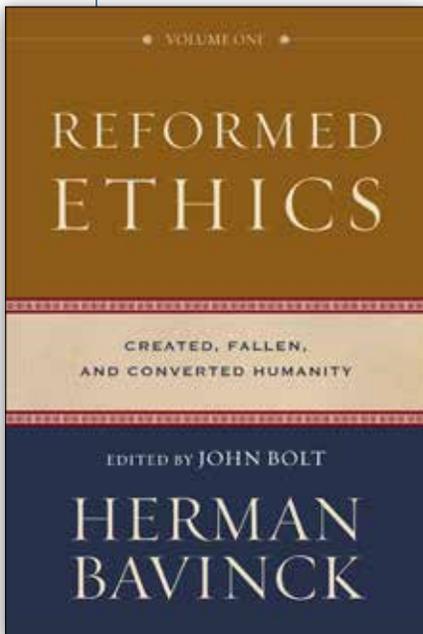
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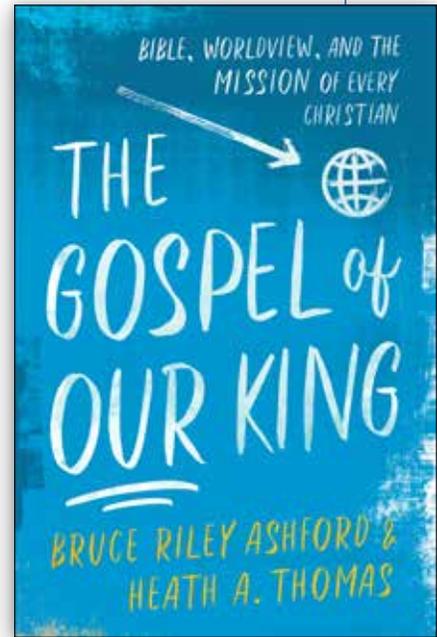
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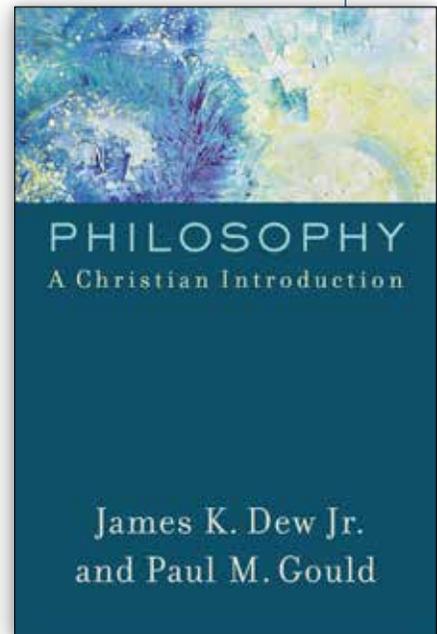
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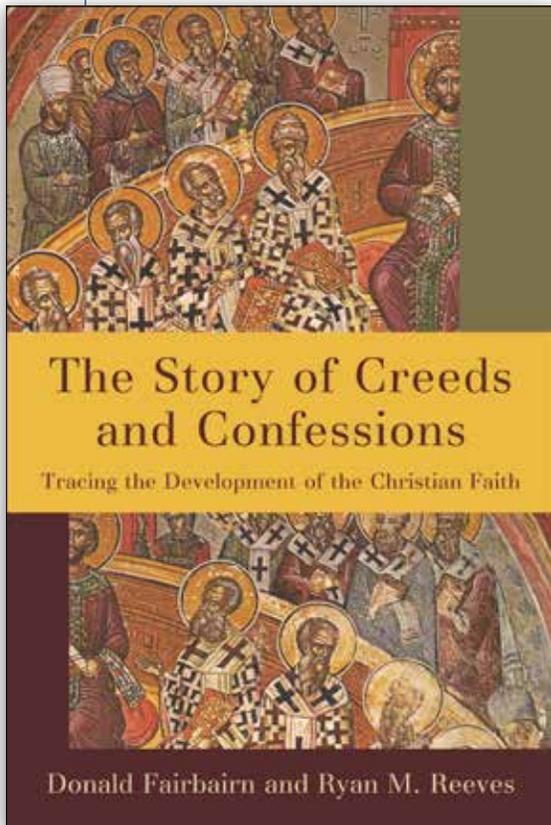
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Ryan M. Reeves (PhD, University of Cambridge) has taught at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, and the University of Cambridge. He is the author of several books, including *Know How We Got Our Bible*.

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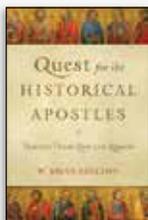
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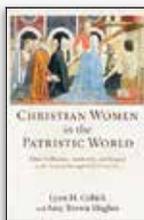
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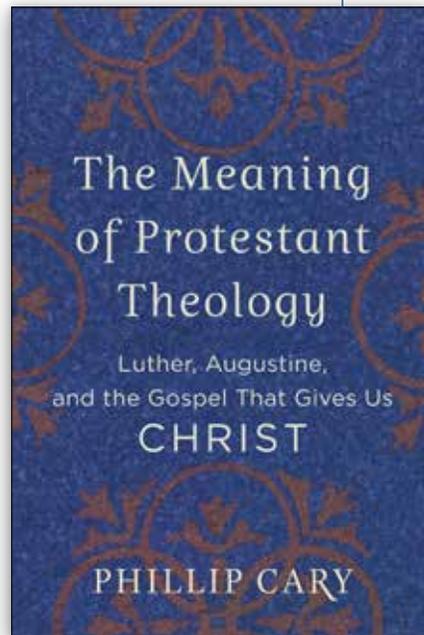
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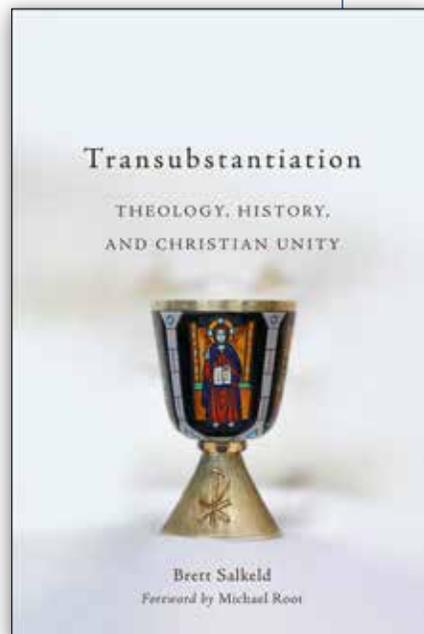
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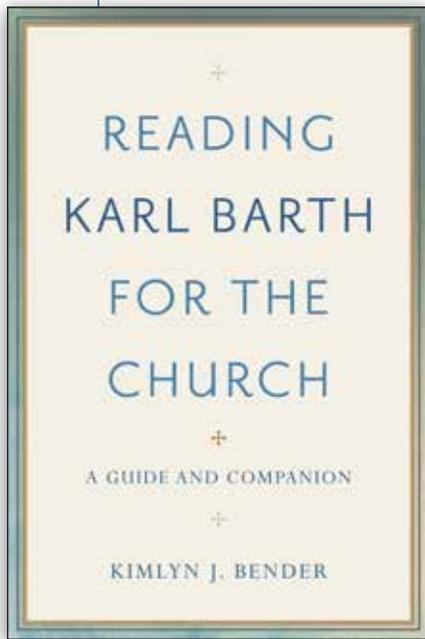
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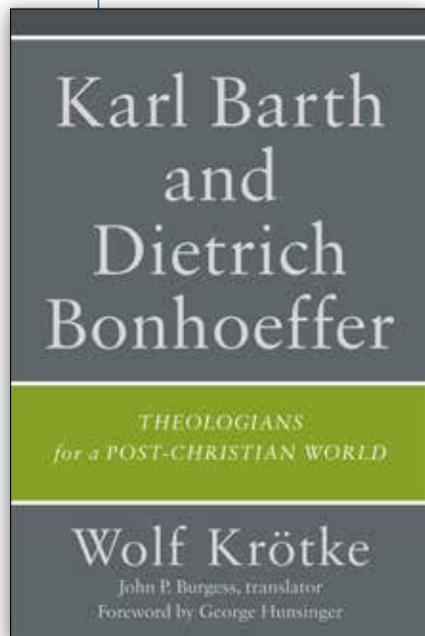
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Wolf Krötke (PhD, University of Tübingen) is professor emeritus of systematic theology at Humboldt University in Berlin. He studied under Eberhard Jüngel and has written more than a dozen books.

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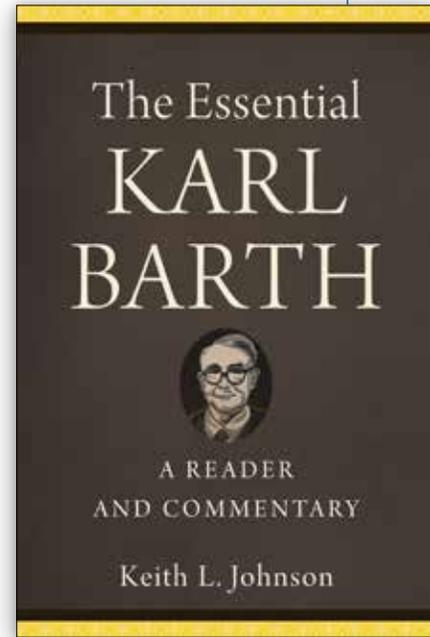
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“This is the best one-volume anthology of Barth’s theology available in English. Johnson’s critical commentary is superb. This book will be of great service not only in the classroom but also in the pastor’s study and in the hands of any interested reader.”—**George Hunsinger**, Princeton Theological Seminary

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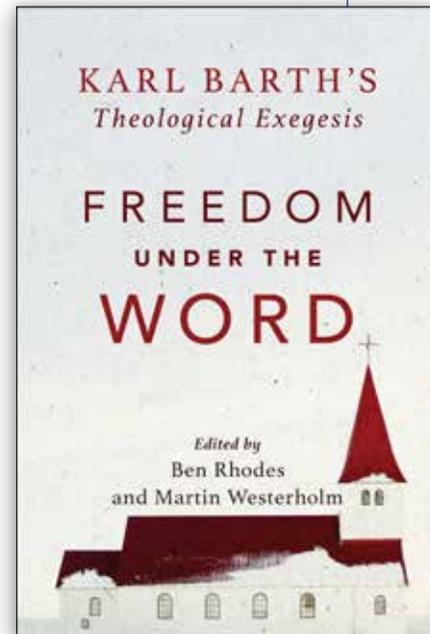
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ENDORSEMENT

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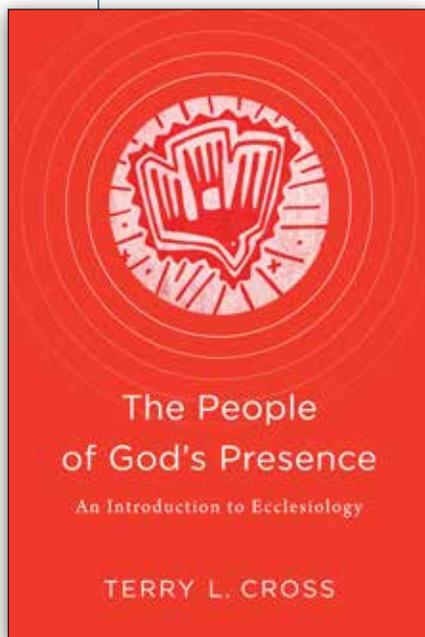
Ben Rhodes (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is manager of academic studies at the Christian Institute on Disability at the Joni and Friends International Disability Center. He also teaches at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University.

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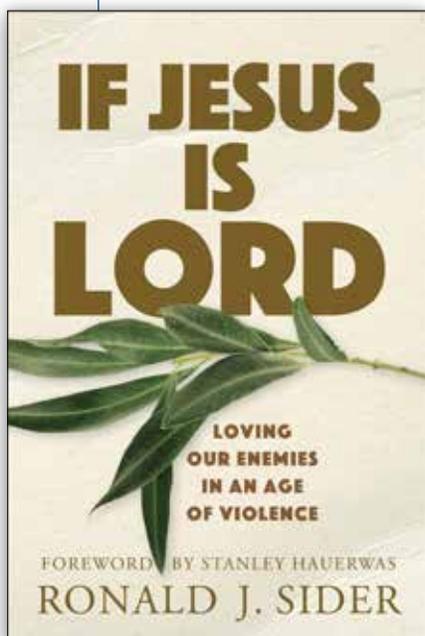
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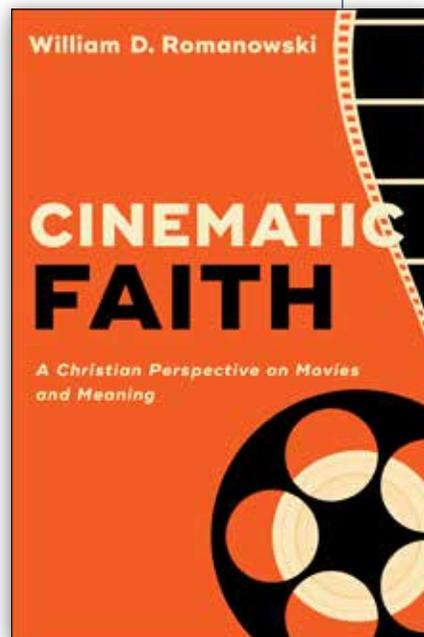
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William D. Romanowski (PhD, Bowling Green State University) is Arthur H. DeKruyter Chair in Communication at Calvin University. He speaks frequently on American culture and the entertainment industry and has written a number of books, including the award-winning *Reforming Hollywood* and *Eyes Wide Open*.



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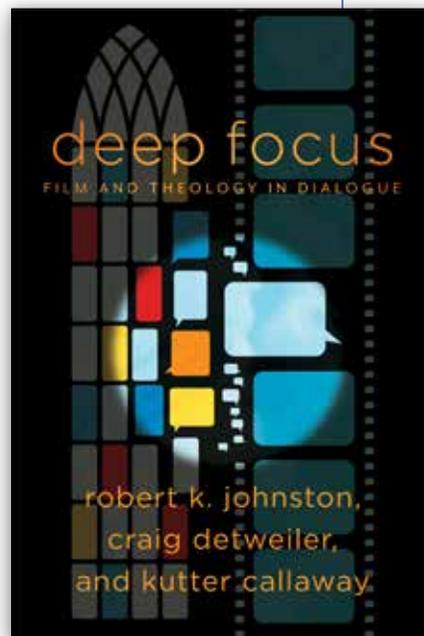
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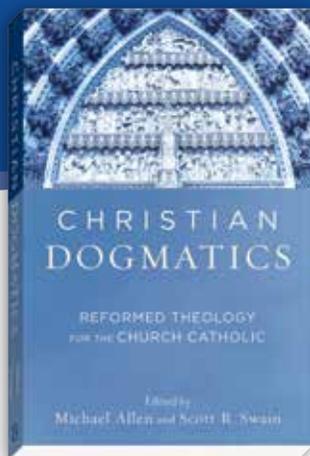


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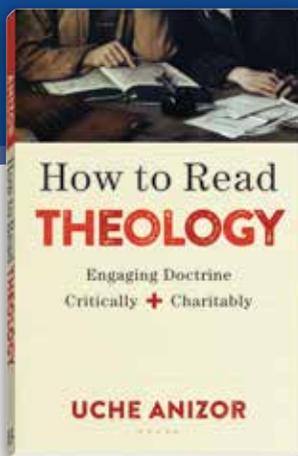
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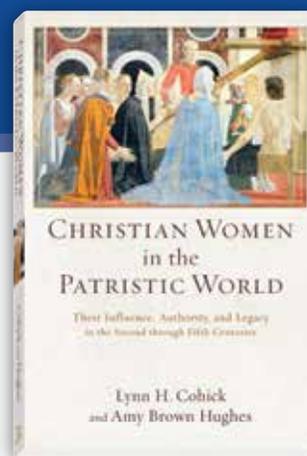
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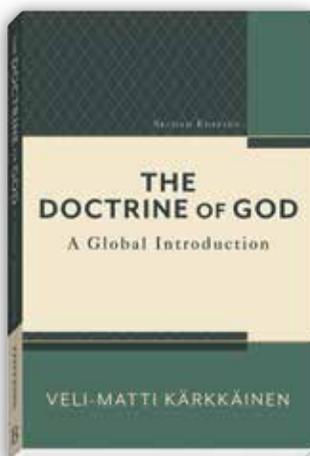
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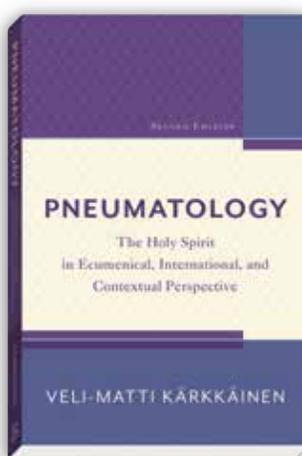
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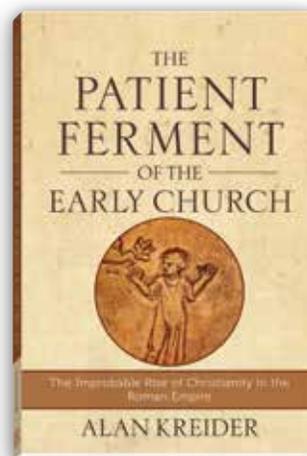
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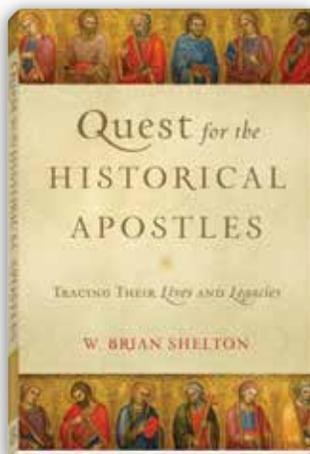
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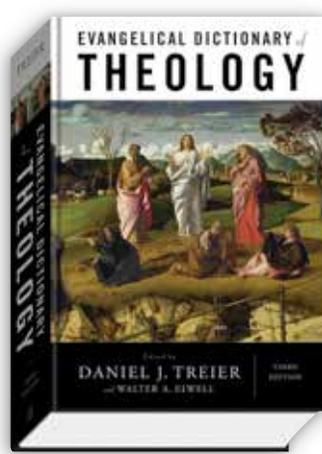
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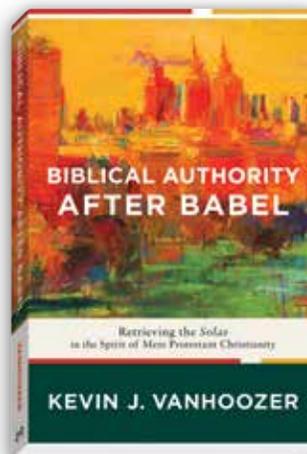
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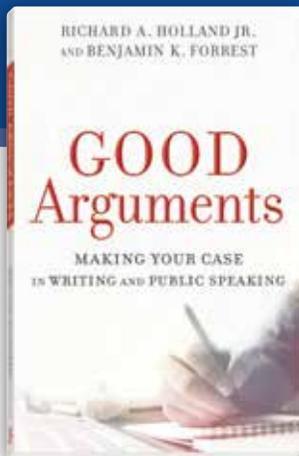
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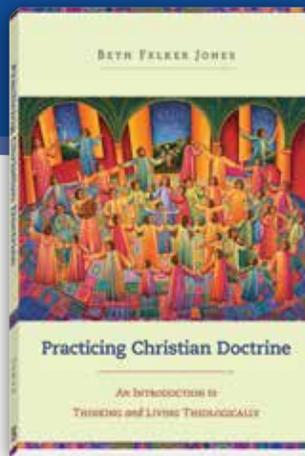
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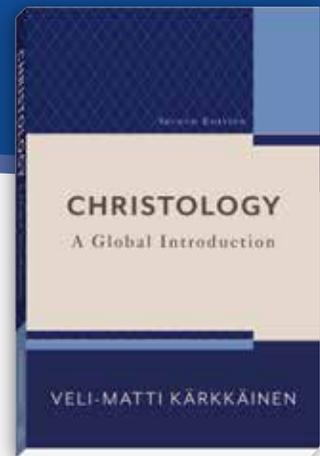
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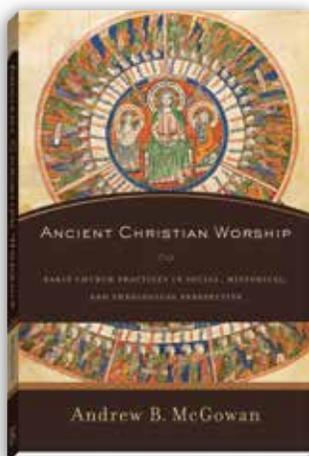
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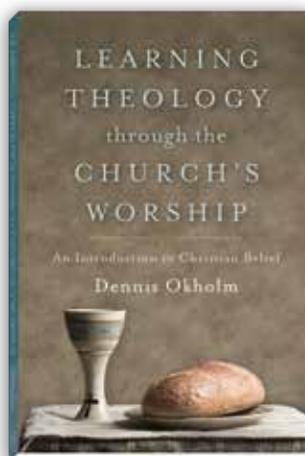
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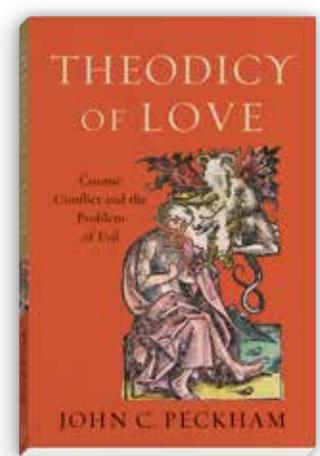
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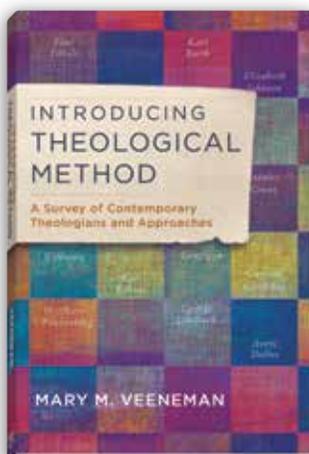
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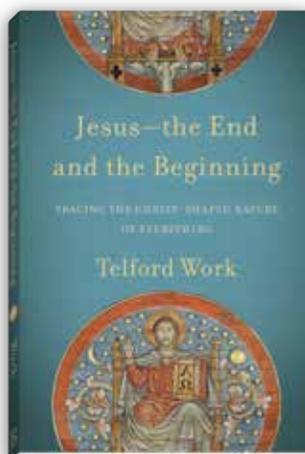
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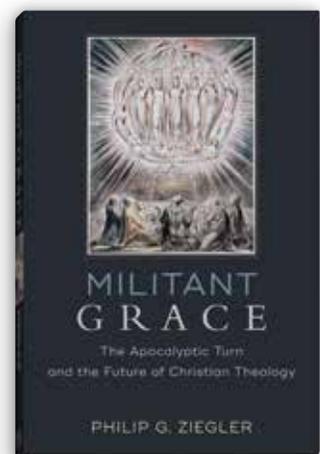
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