

For the author the roots of Christian theology lie deep within the entire Jewish heritage of God's covenant people—and of the continuation of that same covenantal promise in Jesus and the church. In answer to the title question of chapter 13, “Has the Church Superseded Israel?” Wilson answers with a definitive “No” (pp. 245–50). As for renewal, that other key word in Wilson's subtitle, what he abhors and wishes to put to an end is that long, ugly history of Christian anti-Judaism, replaced “by a spirit of indebtedness and appreciation to the Jewish people for its biblical heritage” (p. 245).

Wilson shows a deep and sympathetic understanding of Jewish canonical and traditional sources, perhaps more comprehensively seen in his *Our Father Abraham* than here. The five parts of the book (15 chapters) address five motifs: sources and principles of interpretation; Abraham; a common theology of God; approaching God in worship, prayer, and study; and future relationships.

Like traditional rabbinical scholars of yore, Wilson (a professor at Gordon College) finds joy and nourishment in wrestling with biblical texts in the spirit of Deut. 6:4–9 and Psalm 119. He shares that joy with the reader. The author writes from an informed conservative perspective. With regard to the biblical understanding of mission, readers will gain a larger appreciation of how the vocation of the people of God belongs to the core themes of Scripture. On the other hand, there is a significant missional discontinuity between the Hebraic and Christian heritages (besides, of course, fundamental christological differences). It is remarkable that within the New Testament one witnesses how radically the gospel, after the considerable debates of Galatians and Acts 15, came to be at home in diverse cultures and languages without ignoring its Old Testament roots. In Galatians 3:28–29, Ephesians 2:9–22, and Luke 4:16–30 the old and the new stand side by side. Earlier and later Christianity at its best—not its worst—brought its Jewish heritage along through the open doors that in fact led to today's global church.

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Methods

One Gospel for All Nations: A Practical Approach to Biblical Contextualization

By Jackson Wu

Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library

2015. 268 pp., paper. \$19.99. Kindle Edition. \$9.99

Reviewed by: Mark Wood

“How do we contextualize the gospel?” This is the weighty question that Jackson Wu takes up in his new book, *One Gospel for All Nations*.

Wu's approach to contextualization in the book is laid out in four broad sections. The first section, Contextualize or Compromise, contains two chapters giving an overview of Evangelical approaches to contextualization and also identifying the

problems associated with such models. The chapters are helpful in distinguishing between exegetical and cultural contextualization, while identifying the truth that correct doctrine can be communicated in incorrect ways.

A Firm and Flexible Model for Fluctuating Cultures, section two, consists of four chapters and offers a process of contextualization. Wu's proposal is best articulated in his illustration of a wheel. The spokes represent the firm "frameworks" of the gospel articulated as creation, covenant, and kingdom. At the same time, the tire represents the flexible themes such as sacrifice, love, and glory that connect with culture. Wu's categories are insightful, but his three frameworks also could be expanded to include themes such as mission.

Section three, The One Gospel in Many Cultures, is simultaneously Wu's strongest and weakest section of the book. Using the Chinese context, Wu applies the principles of section two. While the contextual application to an honor–shame culture is strongly represented, the book lacks the similar application to a power–fear context.

Section four, A Practical Perspective on Contextualization, is the most passionately written and also the most compelling. The call for better missionary training and study is welcome and needed. This section calls for a book unto itself.

The appendixes deserve mention. Appendix 1 is an evaluation of gospel presentations that follow the themes Wu presents and explains in the book. The evaluation is quite detailed following the themes of the book and encourages application of the principles espoused within. The second appendix is an actual gospel presentation that helps demonstrate in a practical way the outworking of the book. Central to Wu's presentation are basic symbol pictures that act as a focal point to the message. The symbols, as helpful as they are, raise a question as to why there is no discussion of signs and symbols in the book. Are these to be considered culturally neutral? The third index is a list of verses that comprise the "frameworks" of section two.

The book is recommended for all those interested in, working in, or preparing for cross-cultural contexts and those interested in hermeneutics.

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Theology

The Church to According Paul: Rediscovering the Community Conformed to Christ

By James W. Thompson

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic

2014. 289 pp., paper. \$19.88; Kindle: \$14.57

Reviewed by: Tom Steffen

As Christianity continues to decline in the West new church models have emerged to challenge this downward spiral. But how Pauline is their ecclesiology? How