

Philippians, Colossians

July 2013

\$50, lviii + 297 pages, hardcover
978-0-8308-2974-3

The Glory and Supremacy of Christ

In *Philippians, Colossians*, InterVarsity Press's continuation of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture, Graham Tomlin describes how the Reformers found the main themes of the Pauline letters incredibly relevant for their own time, while also urging today's readers that the lessons extracted from these letters by the Reformers are still pertinent.

Stories like that of *Philippians* overflowing with thanksgiving in the midst of persecution and trials, and *Colossians* defending the superiority of Jesus as Lord over all principalities and powers show that at their heart, Paul's letters to the *Philippians* and *Colossians* celebrate the glory and supremacy of Jesus Christ and his saving work, a refrain that the Reformers never grew tired of singing. While their tones are diverse, the clarity of their compositions and the power of their voices still reverberate today.

This volume assembles a diverse chorus spanning place, time and confessional differences: from Italian reform-minded Catholic Gasparo Contarini and German Lutheran Martin Chemnitz, to Dutch Anabaptist Menno Simons, to French Reformed Theodore Beza. Scholars and pastors alike will find many fruitful insights from these and a number of other significant figures – most of whom enjoy fresh translations from the original, many for the first time in English.

About the Reformation Commentary on Scripture

Following IVP Academic's critical success with the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, this project is an important step in a churchwide effort of retrieval. "The Reformers saw themselves as standing in fundamental continuity with the early church fathers," says Timothy George, series editor. "The RCS seeks to present the Reformers and their engagement with the Bible in the context of the ongoing history of the people of God." The project brings together a team of world-class Reformation scholars under the leadership of general editor Timothy George and associate general editor Scott M. Manetsch. Each volume features a mix of major and minor voices from the era, with many texts appearing for the first time in English.

"In addition to their biblical studies, the Reformers were also keen to read the Scriptures in the company of the fathers and scholastics who preceded them," says George. "The RCS will allow pastors and teachers to compare the writings of the church fathers with the Reformers of the sixteenth century. In doing so, they will be able to assess both the continuity and the dissonance between these two major epochs in biblical interpretation."

Projected to be a twenty-eight-volume biblical commentary, the series puts the words of the Reformers directly into the hands of the contemporary church.

Graham Tomlin (Ph.D., Exeter University) is dean of St. Mellitus College, London. He taught on Martin Luther and the Reformation in the theology faculty of the University of Oxford for eight years. He is the author, among many other publications, of *The Power of the Cross: Theology and the Death of Christ in Paul, Luther and Pascal* and *Luther and His World*.

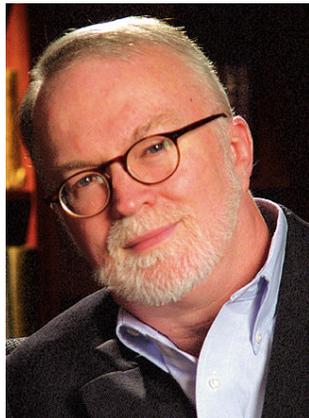
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:

Krista Carnet, broadcast publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kkcarnet@ivpress.com
Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com
Adrianna Wright, online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or awright@ivpress.com
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Timothy George (Th.D., Harvard University), series editor for the Reformation Commentary on Scripture, is a renowned Reformation historian and author of *Theology of the Reformers*, as well as many other theological and historical works. He is the founding dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, and a member of the advisory council for *First Things*.

Praise for the Reformation Commentary on Scripture

"The Reformation Commentary on Scripture is a major publishing event – for those with historical interest in the founding convictions of Protestantism, but even more for those who care about understanding the Bible. . . . [T]his effort brings flesh and blood to 'the communion of saints' by letting believers of our day look over the shoulders of giants from the past. By connecting the past with the present, and by doing so with the Bible at the center, the editors of this series perform a great service for the church. The series deserves the widest possible support."

– **Mark A. Noll**, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

"Why was this not done before? . . . This commentary series brings the very best of the Reformation heritage to the task of exegesis and exposition, and each volume in this series represents a veritable feast that takes us back to the sixteenth century to enrich the preaching and teaching of God's Word in our own time."

– **R. Albert Mohler Jr.**, president, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

"I heartily recommend this series as a tremendous resource not only for ministry but for personal edification."

– **Michael S. Horton**, J. G. Machen Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics, Westminster Seminary, California

"For folks interested in reception history and historical theology, these volumes are sheer gold."

– **Michael F. Bird**, lecturer in theology, Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

"InterVarsity Press should be thanked for their commitment to and investment in a project of this scope."

– **Justin Taylor**, blogger, The Gospel Coalition

"Discerning the true significance of movements in theology requires acquaintance with their biblical exegesis. This is supremely so with the Reformation, which was essentially a biblical revival. The Reformation Commentary on Scripture will fill a yawning gap, just as the Ancient Christian Commentary did before it, and the first volume gets the series off to a fine start, whetting the appetite for more. Most heartily do I welcome and commend this long overdue project."

– **J. I. Packer**, Retired Board of Governors Professor of Theology, Regent College



Scan here for a video introduction to the RCS

<http://www.ivpress.com/videos/2950.php>

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 Adrianna Wright, online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or awright@ivpress.com
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