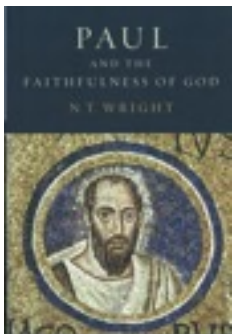


This morning we begin a new study in our series on Paul's early letters—The Corinthian Correspondence

We, of course, will begin with 1 Corinthians.

This will serve as an introduction, then I will be gone 3 weeks, then back for 4 straight sessions on Sunday mornings.

I want everyone to be reading 1 Corinthians several times before I get back.



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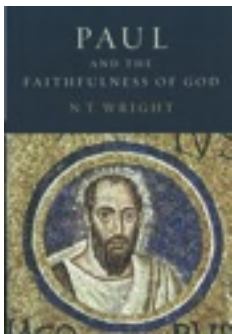
*Paul's Early Epistles*

Huge issues here!

Not understanding the Corinthian letters is why we have the fragmentation of denominationalism.

Luther recovered the gospel, but failed to build networks of churches on it. As a result, all kinds of secondary traditions were built on it leading to denominationalism.

Even N. T. Wright, while also recovering the gospel, has failed to build on it, instead continuing to live in his secondary tradition. He breaks out of it in some of his quotes, but still lives in the Anglican system.



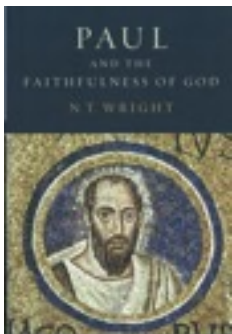
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

The purpose of this morning is to introduce you to the Corinthian correspondence and some of the key books and articles to read from the perspective of early Greco-Roman research.

That is how I have developed the “paradigm breaking” research on Paul’s letters.

But first let’s begin with discussions at our tables as a primer.



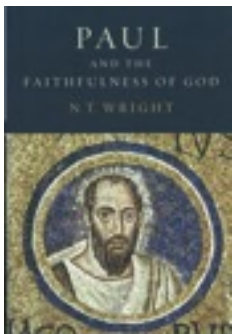
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

## Passage: The Corinthian Letters

### Questions:

1. What do you know about the Corinthian letters?
2. What are some of the things addressed in the letters?
3. How might those things relate to the fragmentation of the gospel in the Corinthian churches?
4. Why do you think Paul wrote these letters? What was his intention?



# The Early Letters

Book 1: The Early Letters: Fully Establishing the Churches in the Gospel

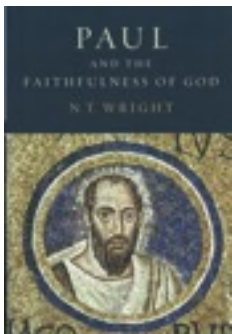
Book 2: Galatians: So Quickly Leaving the Gospel

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Book 6: Romans: Complete Treatise of Paul's Gospel



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

# Book 1: *The Early Letters: Fully Establishing the Churches in the Gospel*

Session 1: The Intent of The Early Letters

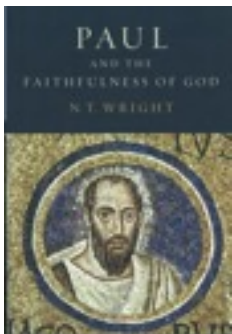
Session 2: The Galatian Problem

Session 3: The Thessalonian Conversion

Session 4: The Corinthian Schisms

Session 5: The Roman Treatise

Session 6: Use in Life and Ministry



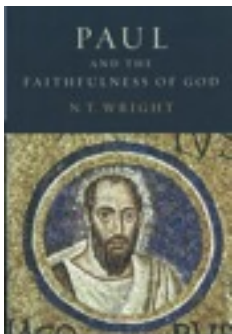
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

The intention of these early letters is to establish the churches in the gospel.

Paul broadens the understanding of the gospel, and he roots the solutions to the problems his churches were encountering in that growing and broadening understanding of the kerygma and its implications.

This intention will become clearer and clearer as each letter unfolds.



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

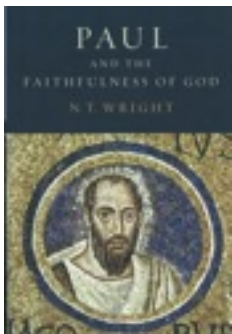
We will validate this in the six books of this series, as we look at the correspondence of these early letters:

The Galatian letter

The Thessalonian correspondence

The Corinthian correspondence

The letter to the Romans



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*Paul's Early Epistles*



## Book 2: *Paul's Early Letters: The Galatian Problem*

Session 1: The Galatian Problem

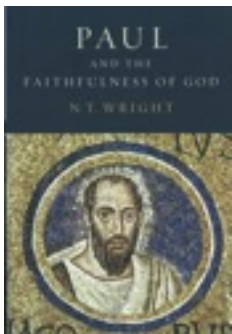
Session 2: The Pure Gospel

Session 3: The Gospel as a System of Living

Session 4: The Gospel and Walking in the Spirit

Session 5: The Gospel and Respecting Leaders

Session 6: Use in Life and Ministry



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

## Book 3: *Paul's Early Letters: The Thessalonians' Conversion*

Session 1: Paul's Concern for the Thessalonians

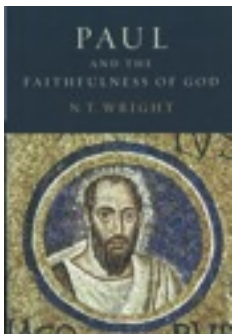
Session 2: Their Dramatic Conversion

Session 3: Three Emerging Problems—Letter 1

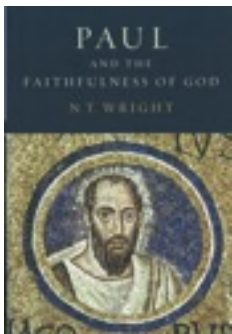
Session 4: Further Clarification—Letter 2

Session 5: Solidifying Their Conversion

Session 6: Use in Life and Ministry



As I mentioned earlier, I will introduce you to the key Greco-Roman research on the Corinthian Correspondence over the last 40 years and attempt to both summarize the conversation and apply it to building an author's intention statement, which I will introduce in session 1 in 4 weeks.

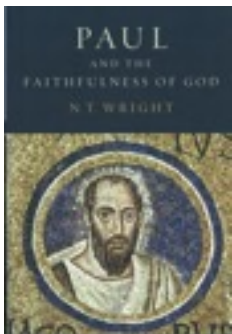


# Intention Statement for the Corinthian Letters

To

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by



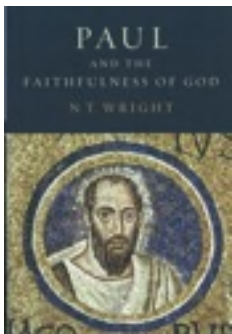
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

The key work and author carrying the conversation is

*The Social Setting of Pauline Christianity: Essays on Corinth* by Gerd Theissen, (Fortress, 1982)

Like Malherbe's *Paul and the Thessalonians: The Philosophical Tradition of Pastoral Care*, usually one author brings it down to the churches.

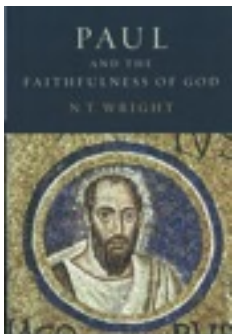


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*Paul's Early Epistles*

This book has 22 Greco-Roman essays on the Corinthian church and summarizes all the key areas of the conversation:

*Christianity at Corinth: The Quest for the Pauline Church*, edited by Edward Adams and David G. Horrell (WJK, 2004)



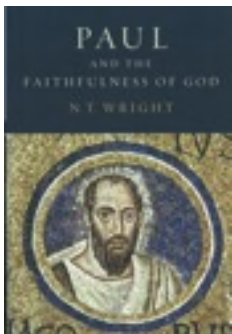
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

Two books contribute to getting on top of the conversation:

*Beginning From Jerusalem: Volume 2 of Christianity in the Making* by James D. G. Dunn (Eerdman, 2009)

This contains a summary of almost all the current research on the “quest for the historical church.” See these sections on the Corinthian churches: “The Founding of the Church at Corinth” pages 692–702 and the 4 Corinthian letters, pages 780–857.



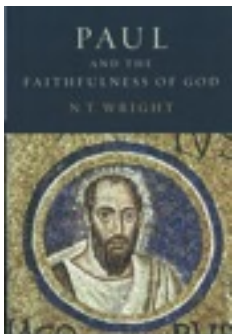
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

The second of the two books that contribute to getting on top of the conversation:

*Dictionary of the Letters of Paul: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*, editors: Gerald F. Hawthorne, Ralph P. Martin and Daniel G. Reid (IVP, 1993)

The key article is “Corinthians, the Letters Of” pages 164–179.



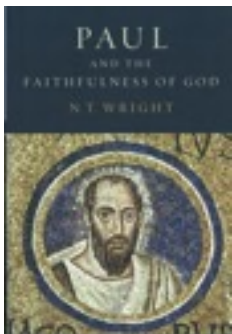
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*Paul's Early Epistles*



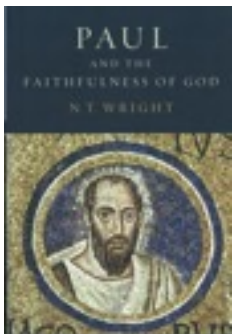
I will also use the Corinthian volumes of *Hermeneia—A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*

- *1 Corinthians* by Hans Conzelmann (Fortress, 1988)
- *2 Corinthians 8 and 9: A Commentary on Two Administrative Letters of the Apostle Paul* by Hans Dieter Betz (Fortress, 1985)



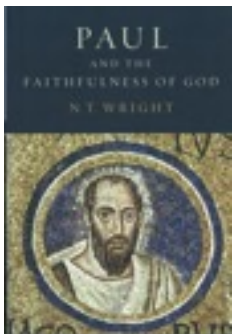
As usual, I will use N. T. Wright's treatment of the gospel in the Corinthian letters in *Paul and the Faithfulness of God* (Fortress, 2013).

The use of Wright will be for tracing the development of the gospel in the Corinthian letters, although most of his work focuses on Galatians and Romans, which is also why he misses the focus on the quest for the historical church, of which 1 and 2 Corinthians are so important.



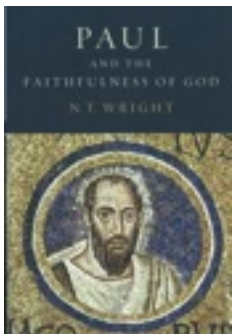
Three other books will be important for sections of the Corinthian letters:

- *St. Paul's Theology of Rhetorical Style: An Examination of 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 in Light of First Century Greco-Roman Rhetorical Culture*, Michael A. Bullmore (ISP, 1995)
- *The Earliest History of the Christian Gatherings: Origin, Development and Content of the Christian Gathering in the First to Third Centuries*, Valeriy A. Alikin (Brill, 2010)
- *Worship in the Early Church*, Ralph P. Martin (Eerdman, 1974)



Some of the key ideas I am beginning with are these:

- building on one apostolic foundation
- rhetoric of the gospel—not based on orators
- systematic solving of issues that fractured the churches
- the church meeting anchored in the Lord's Supper as the unifying center
- the power of the New Covenant apostolic ministry
- the importance of apostolic leaders and their sphere of ministry—building a network



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

# The Early Letters

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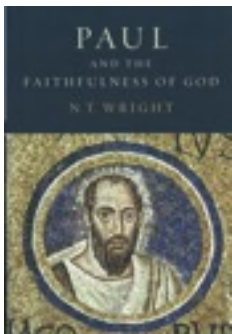
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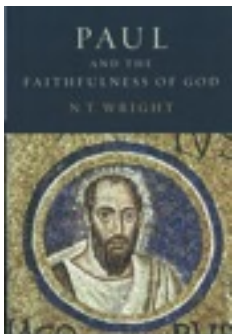
Book 5: The Corinthian Letters: Progressing the Gospel Through Multiplying Churches

Book 6: Romans: Complete Treatise of Paul's Gospel



# Book 4: The Corinthian Letters: Fragmentation of the Gospel

- Session 1: The Fragmentation of the Gospel
- Session 2: Building on One Foundation: The Traditions
- Session 3: Divisions in the Community Life
- Session 4: Divisions in the Community Gatherings
- Session 5: Back to the Gospel Foundations
- Session 6: Use in Life and Ministry



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

# Book 5: The Corinthian Letters: Progressing the Gospel Through Multiplying Churches

Session 1: The Pressure of Leading Church Networks

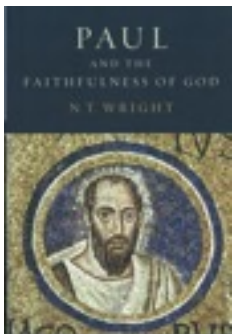
Session 2: The Ministry of the Gospel: Conflicts Without and Fears Within

Session 3: Sacrificing Network to Network for Progress of the Gospel

Session 4: The Importance of Apostolic Teams

Session 5: The Appeal to the Corinthian Churches

Session 6: Use in Life and Ministry

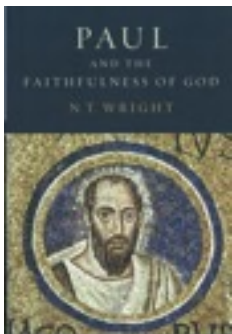


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*Paul's Early Epistles*

This is going to be a very exciting study.

It you work along with me, you will be able to master the argument as it unfolds and be able to participate in the study in a way that will introduce you to the theological method of using the 40-year growing conversation of Greco-Roman research that is reshaping our understanding of early Christianity and the intention of Paul's letters.



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

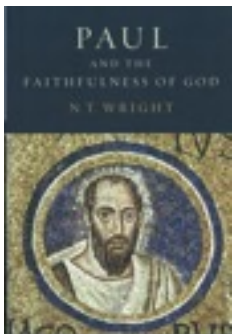


## The System

*The Leadership Series* (4 years)

*The First Principles Series* (3 years)—grows out of Leadership Series I

*The Biblical Theology Series* (7 years)—grows out of Leadership Series II



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

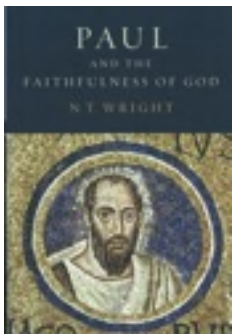
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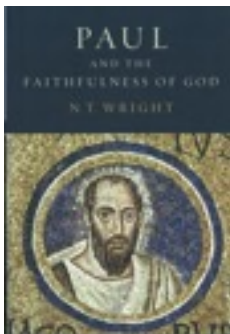
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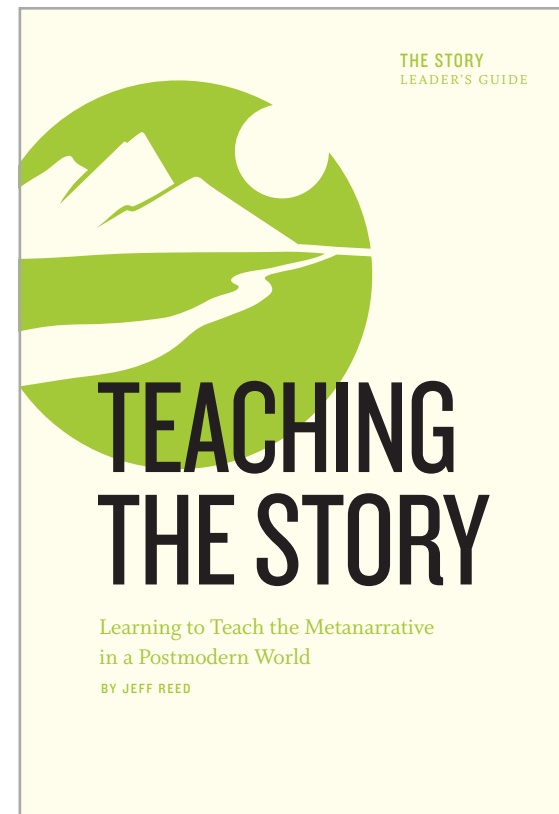
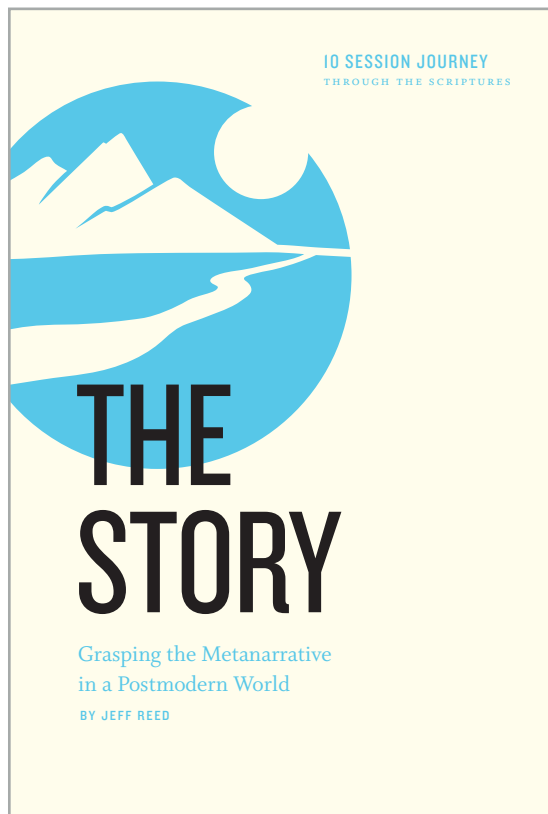
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

# BILD THEOLOGY IN CULTURE SYSTEM

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## THE STORY



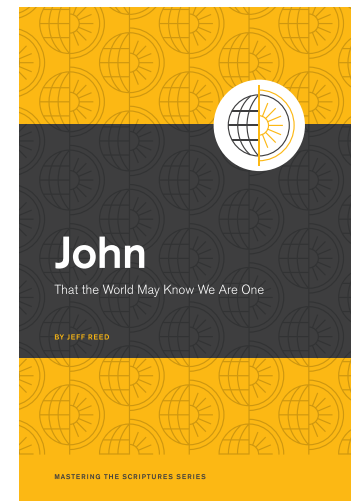
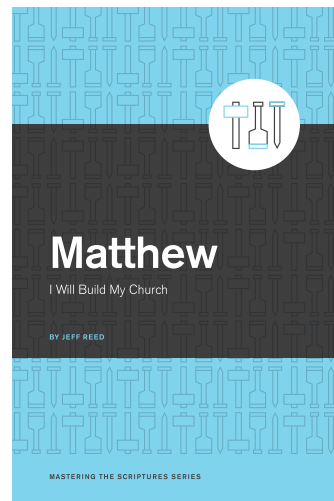
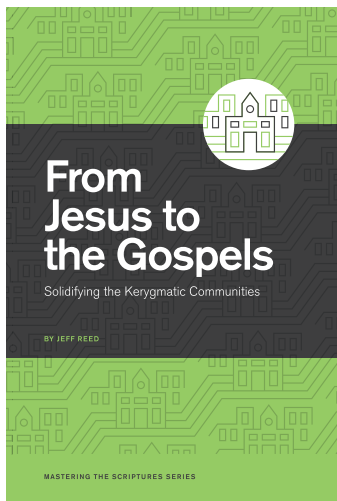
# BILD THEOLOGY IN CULTURE SYSTEM

## FIRST PRINCIPLES SERIES



# BILD THEOLOGY IN CULTURE SYSTEM

## MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES



November 2016

Late 2016 / Early 2017



# Toward a NT Theology

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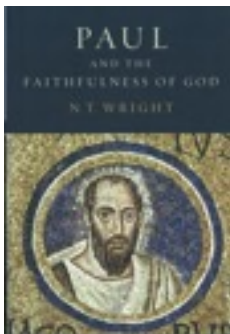
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## Substructure of NT Theology—The Kerygma



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*Paul's Early Epistles*

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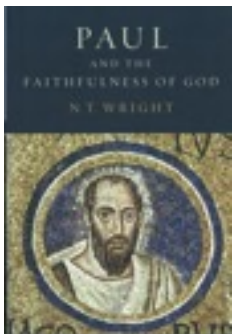
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# The Early Letters

Last week we finished Thessalonians.

In 2017, we will do 3 more booklets:

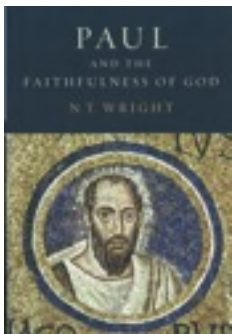
1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Romans

It is scheduled for the whole year.

They will all be published early 2018.



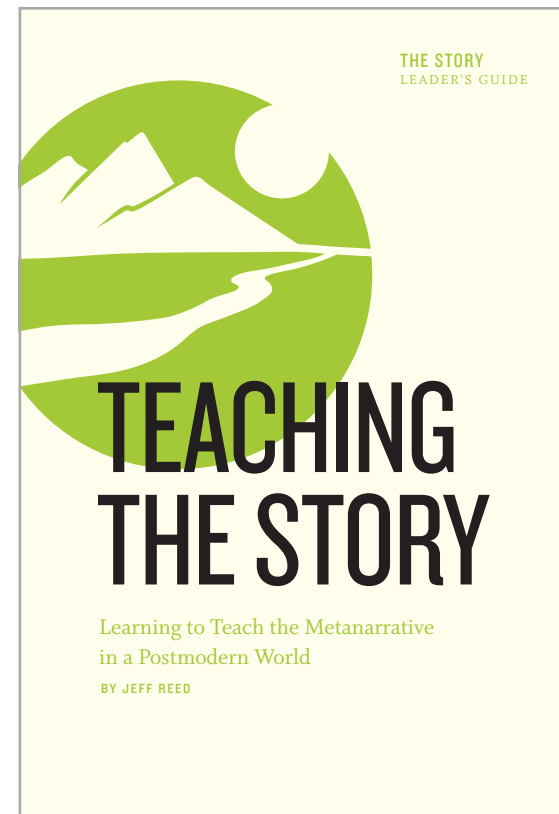
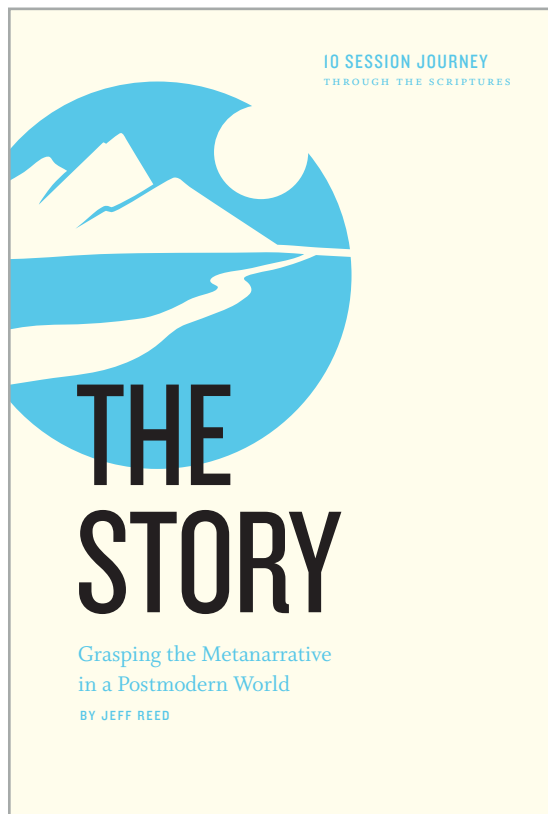
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*Paul's Early Epistles*

# BILD THEOLOGY IN CULTURE SYSTEM

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## THE STORY



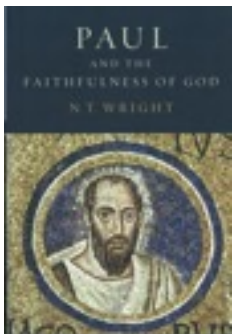
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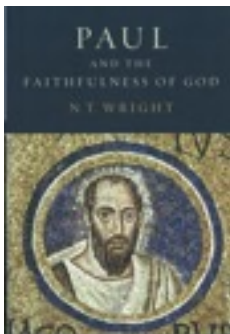
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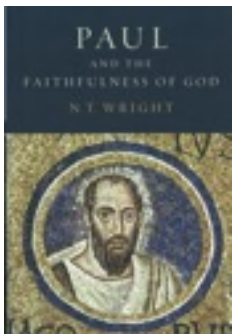


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*Paul's Early Epistles*

Why do you need to understand this in depth?

1. The Early Letters are tools for establishing the churches fully in the gospel.
2. Leaders need this to fully establish and guard the churches.
3. There is power in everyone knowing these letters with confidence and being able to use them.



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*Paul's Early Epistles*