

UNEDUCATED APOSTLES

ORALITY, LITERACY, AND LEADERSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

BY JEFF REED

A BILD ENCYCLICAL

This Morning

3 Things

1. One international partner segment
2. Quick overview of this conference
3. A dip into my encyclical—“uneducated Paul”



- Joseph
(The Last King
of Scotland)
- Josphat
- James -
Rwanda
(Hotel Rwanda)
- Mutokambali-
Burundi
- Raymond DR
Congo

This Morning

3 Things

BILD EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

A Toolset for "Crossing the Chasm"



BILD International has developed cutting-edge programs designed to bring global trends and strategies to Christian leaders who are involved in global enterprises in education and business, to position them to shape their enterprises for maximum global impact.



Theological Educators Program

This program is primarily for theological educators—seminarians and graduate school leaders. Seminaries and graduate schools of the future are going to have to become resource centers serving movements of churches and are going to have to rethink the Western theological encyclopedia. This program is for institution presidents, provosts, and department heads.



Church Networks, Denominations, and NGO Leaders Program

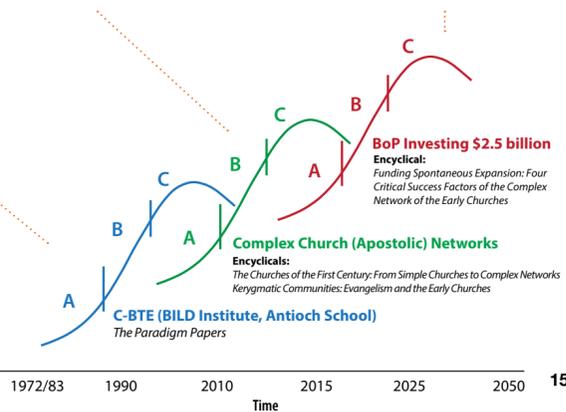
This program is primarily for church network and strategic NGO leaders. Church-planting movement leaders and leaders of church networks and denominations must rethink paradigms at every level for the church of the 21st Century.



Marketplace Leaders Program

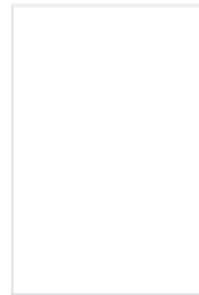
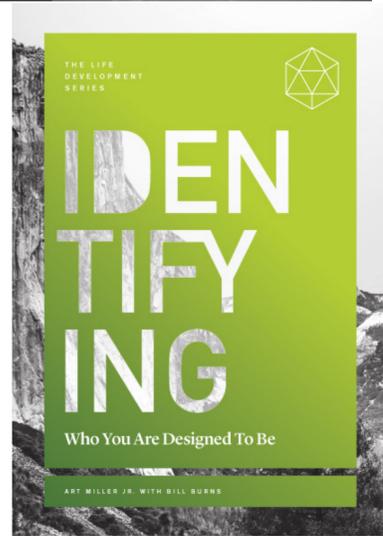
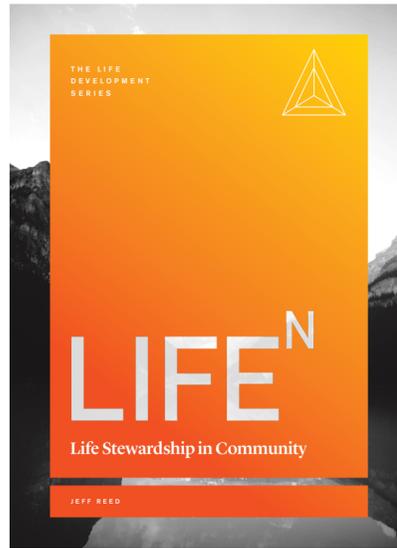
This program is primarily for business men and women who are leaders in the global city marketplace. Paul first went to strategic cities, either to the marketplace or to the river banks, where the leading men and women of the city frequented. Participants include corporate leaders, successful business owners, outstanding professionals, and civic leaders.

PIONEERING UP "LINKED PARADIGM CURVES"



This Morning

3 Things

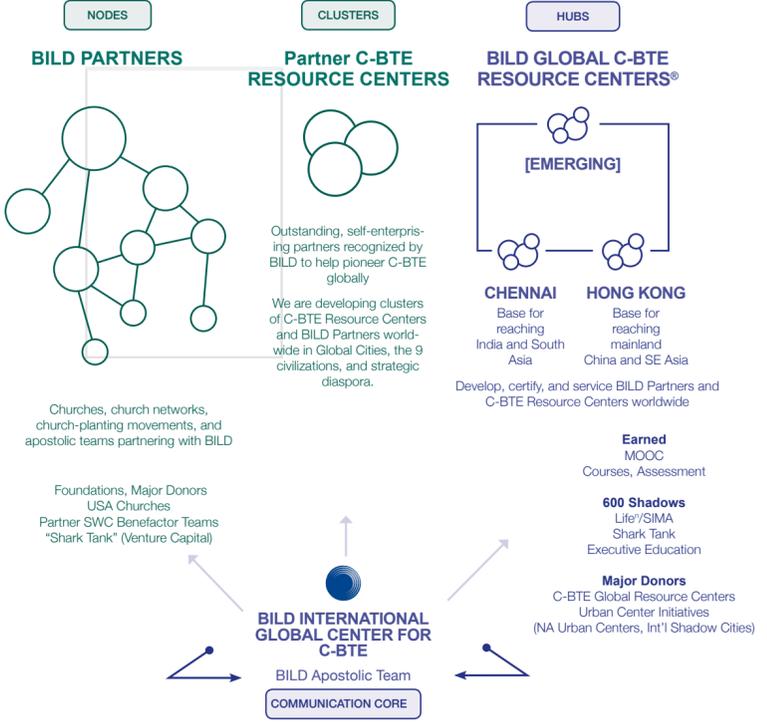


This Morning

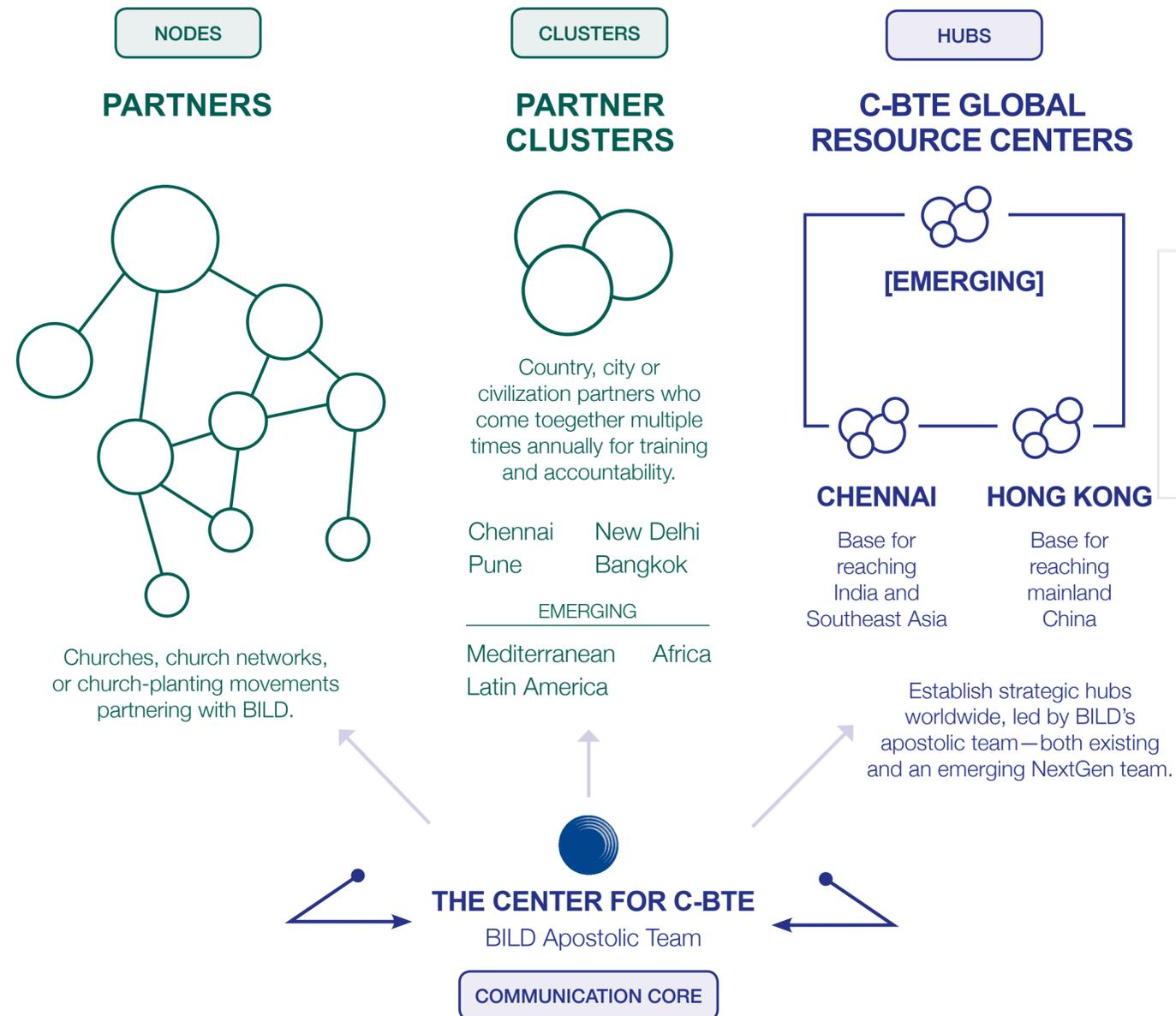


C-BTE COMPLEX APOSTOLIC NETWORK

Powered by BILD International and Its Apostolic Team

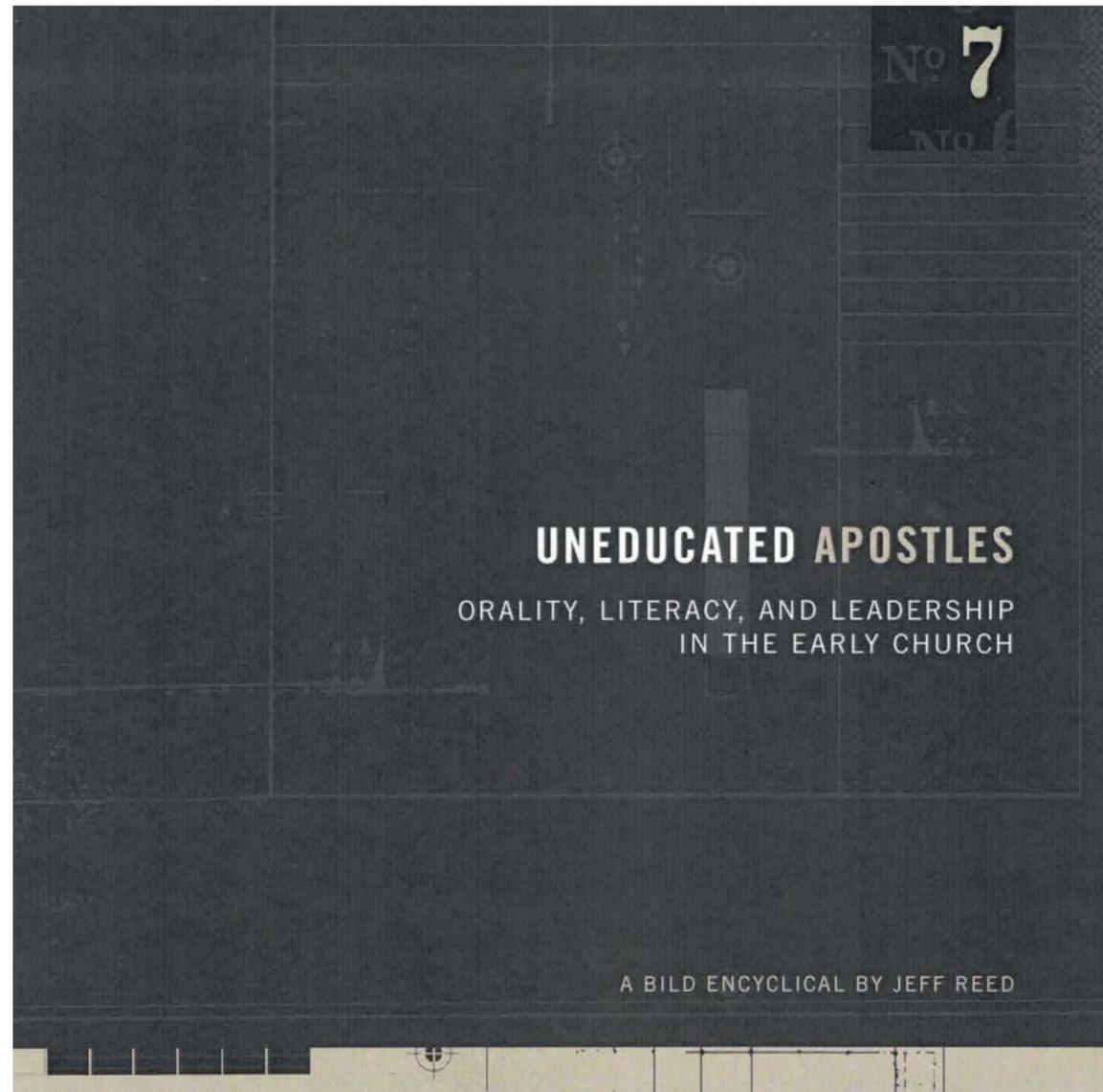


This Morning



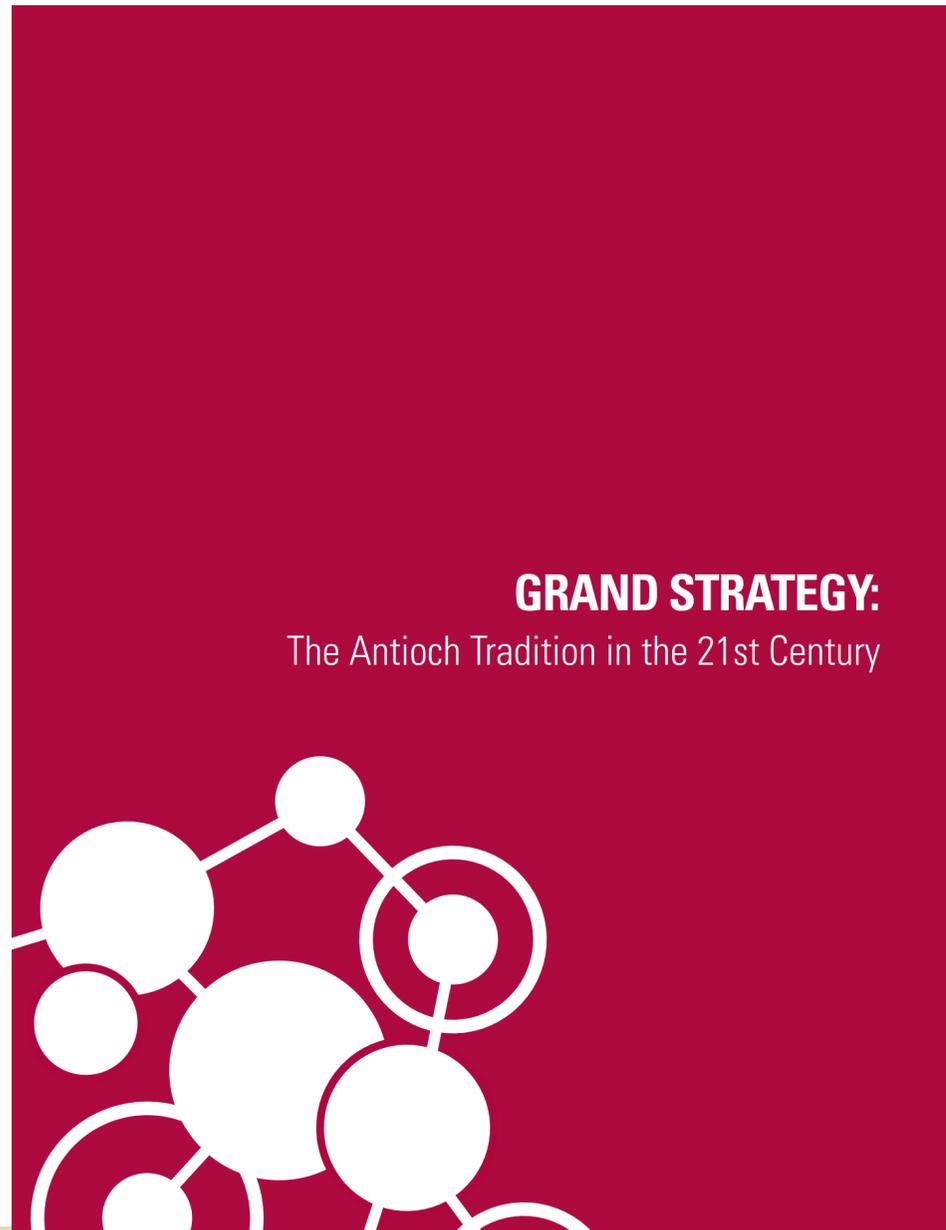
This Morning

3 Things



This Morning

3 Things



Uneducated Paul

Issue 1: Uneducated Paul

Questions:

1. Would Paul have been considered uneducated in the culture of his day?
2. In what way was Paul's oratory style different from the philosophers of the day? What way was his preaching different?
3. Why do you think Paul used so much frank speech in his ministry? with his churches? with Peter and other Jewish leaders?
4. Why was this key to his skill in establishing churches?
5. Why is this kind of speech so lacking in our churches today? What would it look like if our leaders spoke like this today in our churches?

Uneducated Paul

2:1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 NRSV

Uneducated Apostles

Orality, literacy, and leadership development is a huge issue today as the gospel spreads across the Global South.

I have been arguing for several years that the whole system exported by the West to train oral learners is deeply flawed and is doing great damage to the development of oral learners as leaders.

This is a very complex issue and demands careful reflection on the development not only of the illiterate as leaders but the uneducated as well.

Uneducated Paul

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1 Corinthians 2:1–5 NRSV

Examples of Paul's frank speech in his letters. This is so important!!

- The letter to the Galatians
- 2 Corinthians 10–13
- Frankness in Philipppians

Uneducated Paul

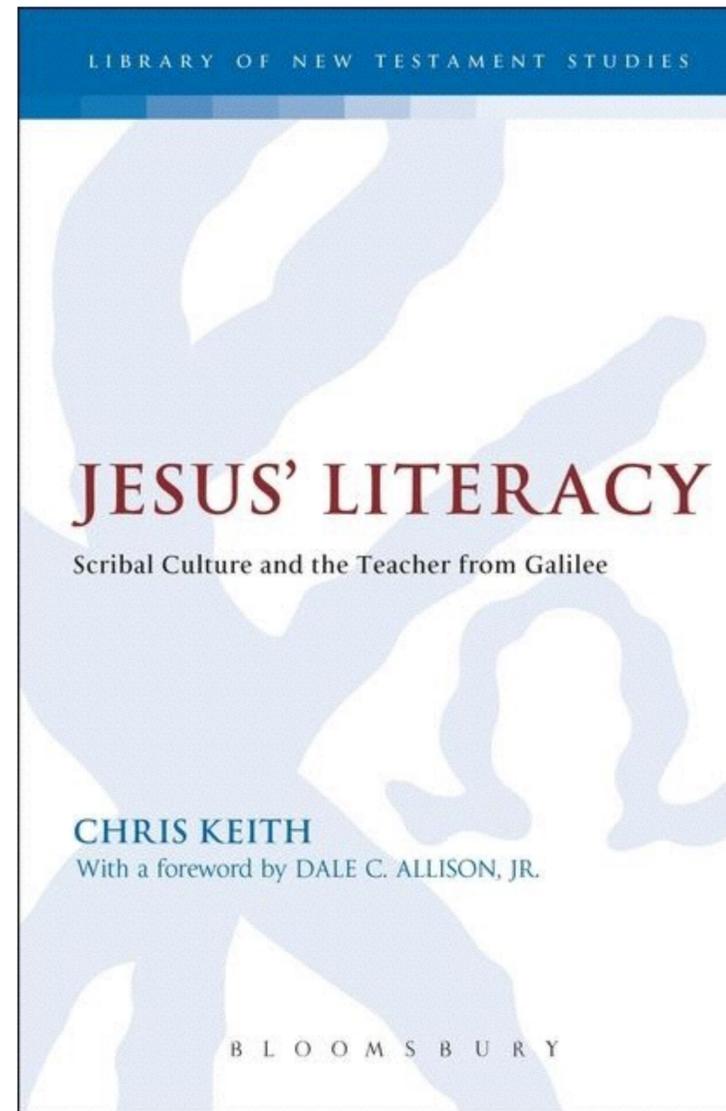
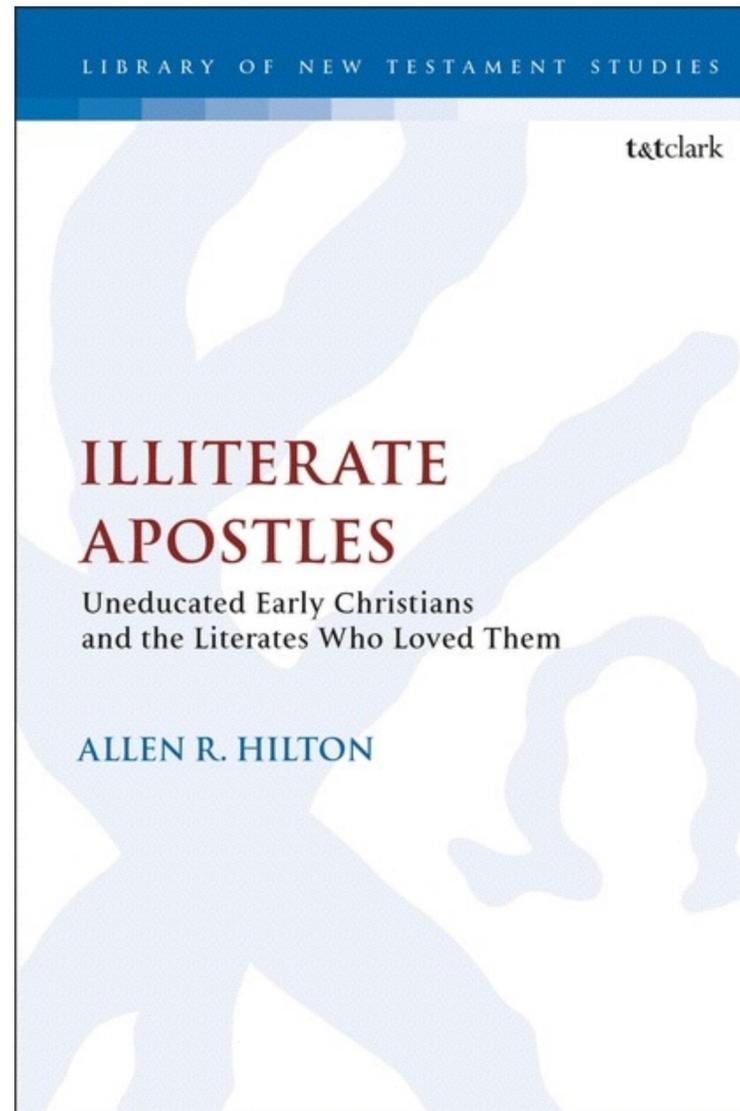
Why did Jesus choose uneducated leaders to lead His movement, which would turn the world upside down?

Peter and John were “uneducated and untrained” Acts 4:13, fishermen

Paul was uneducated—craftsman-literate; tentmaker

Jesus was uneducated—carpenter

Uneducated Apostles



I am indebted to two key books on the subject, which I consider seminal to the whole conversation, both from the Library of New Testament Studies and both cost a fortune.

Illiterate Apostles: Uneducated Early Christians and the Literates Who Loved them, Allen Hilton (April, 2018)

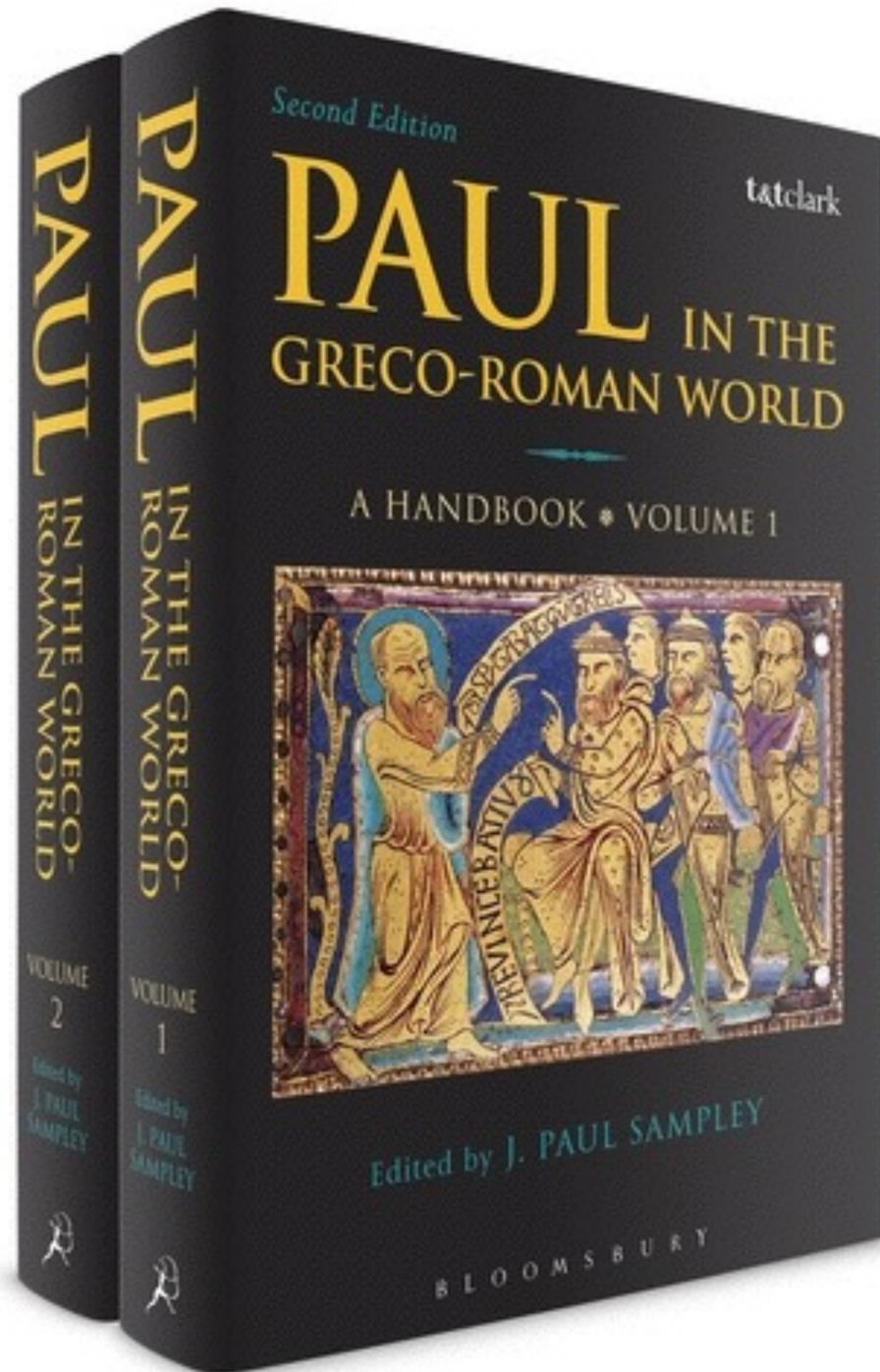
Jesus' Literacy: Scribal Culture and The Teacher From Galilee, Chris Keith (2011)

Uneducated Apostles

I am also indebted to 2 chapters in *Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook, Volumes 1 and 2*, edited by J. Paul Sampley (T&T Clark, 2016)

“Paul and Frankness” ch. 12

“Paul and Literacy” ch. 18



Uneducated Apostles

In the encyclical I focus on Peter and John, Jesus, Luke, and Paul

Uneducated Peter and John

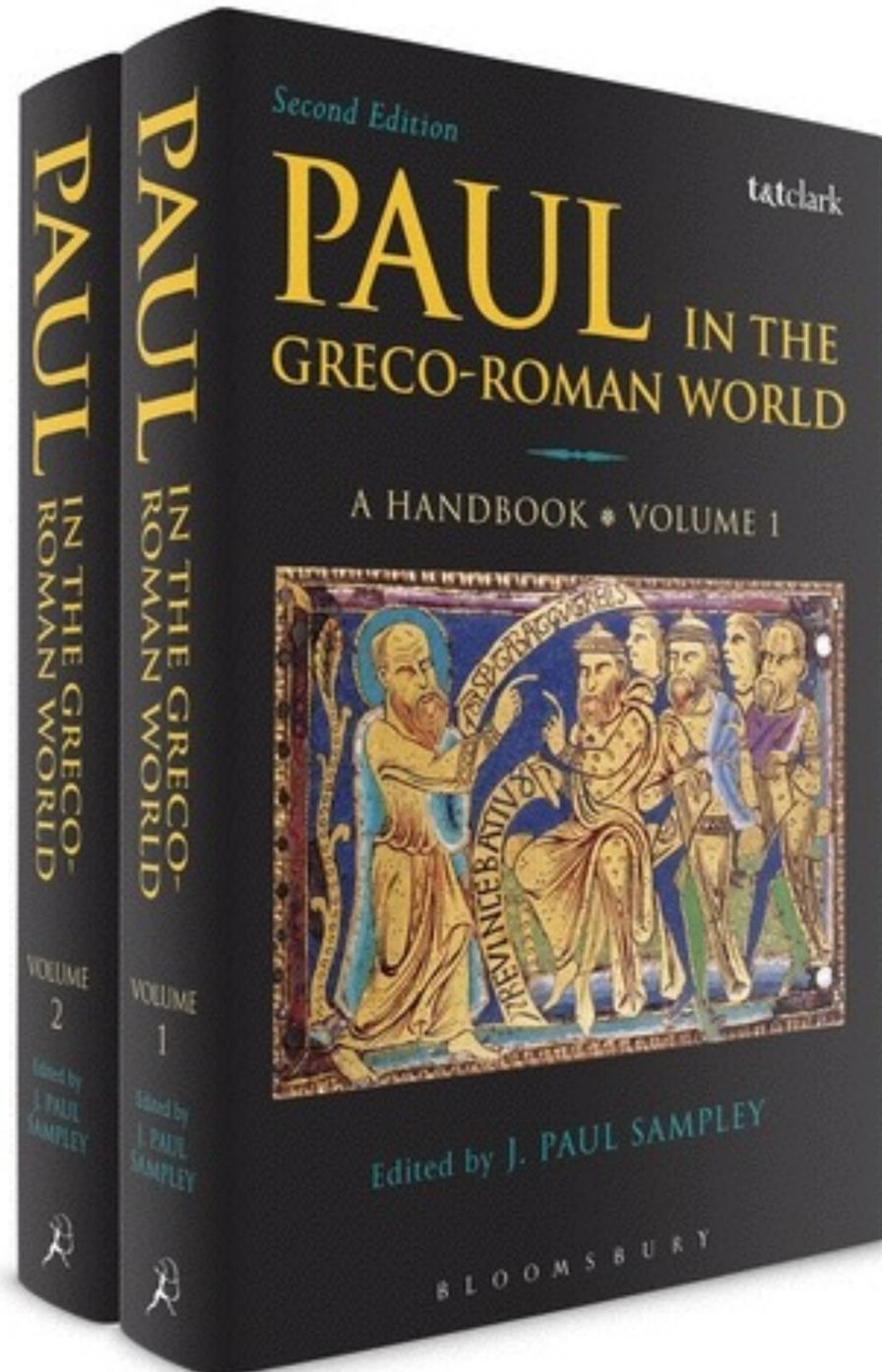
Uneducated Jesus

Educated Luke

Uneducated Paul

This morning I am going to focus briefly on Paul

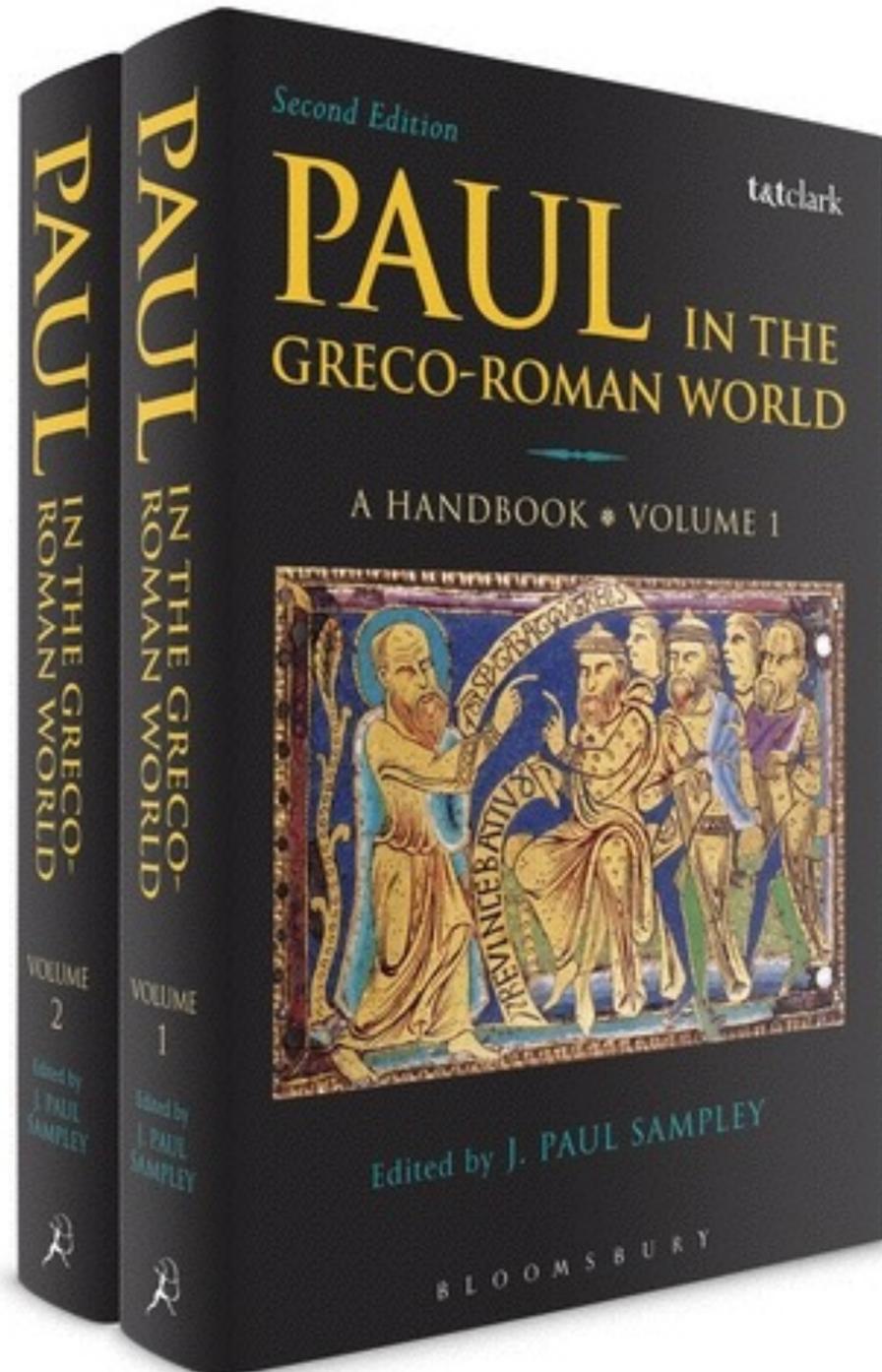
Uneducated Paul



In light of all we have established so far, here is my summary of where Paul fits into this whole orality, literacy, and leadership in the Greco-Roman world scene.

1. He was a Roman citizen and knew a lot of Greek literature.
2. He studied under Gamaliel, so had some scribal-literate training and called himself a Pharisee.
3. Yet it appears he was more a zealot—an entrepreneur—than a scholar.
4. He read extensively, carried his books around with him, and even amazed rulers with his knowledge.

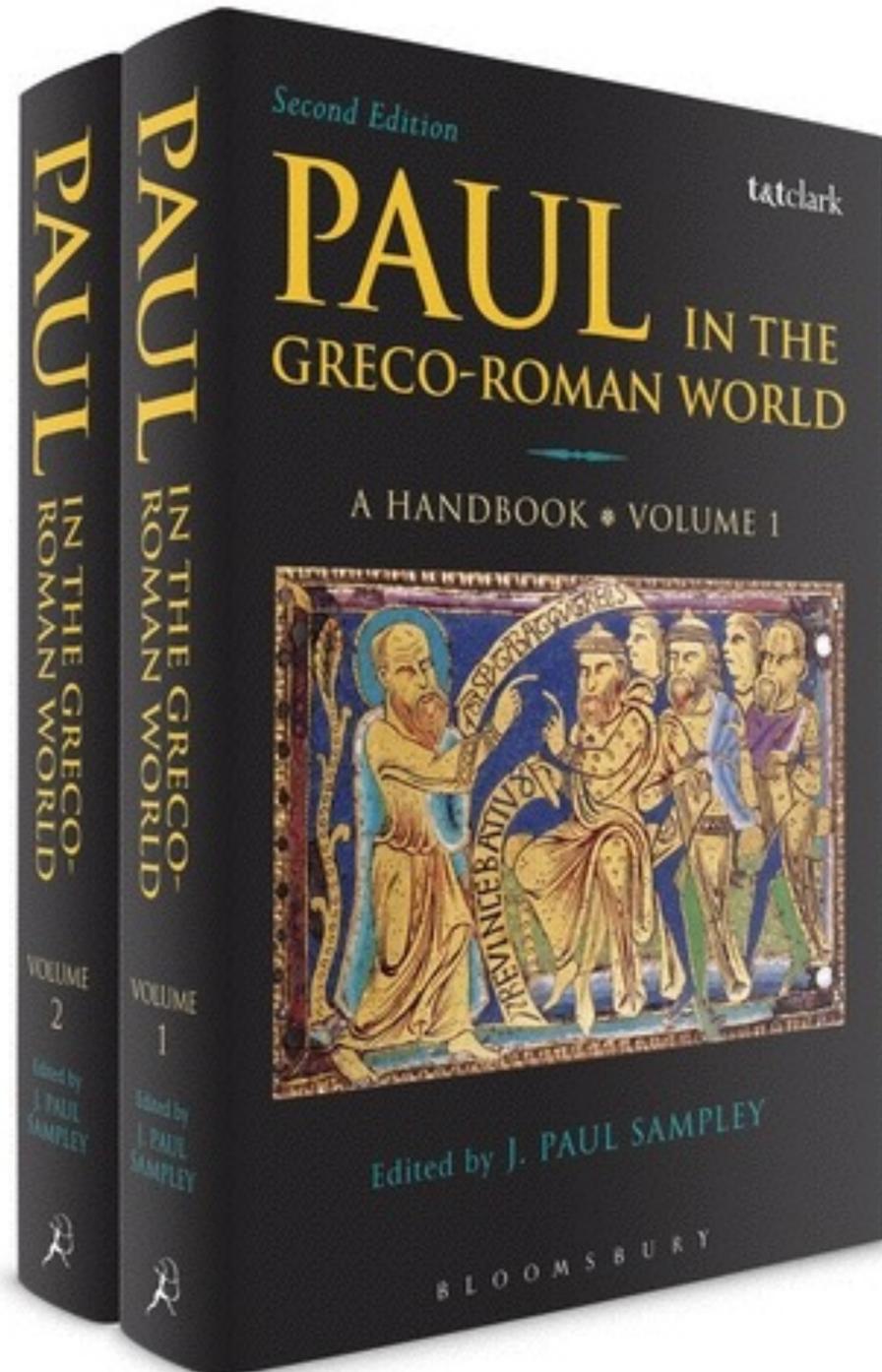
Uneducated Paul



Where Paul fit into this whole orality, literacy, and leadership in the Greco-Roman world scene, continued.

5. Paul was trilingual—he could speak Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.
6. Yet Paul was never identified as classically trained like Luke, nor a well known scribe like Luke, but as a tentmaker.
7. In addition, he used an amanuensis (not professionals but his companions) for all of his letters, which was common for the day, but an indication his reading skills may have been far greater than his writing skills.
8. He made a polemic argument (1 Corinthians 2:1–5) that he did not speak, make his case, or orate like the Greek philosophers of the day. Paul was an anomaly.

Uneducated Paul

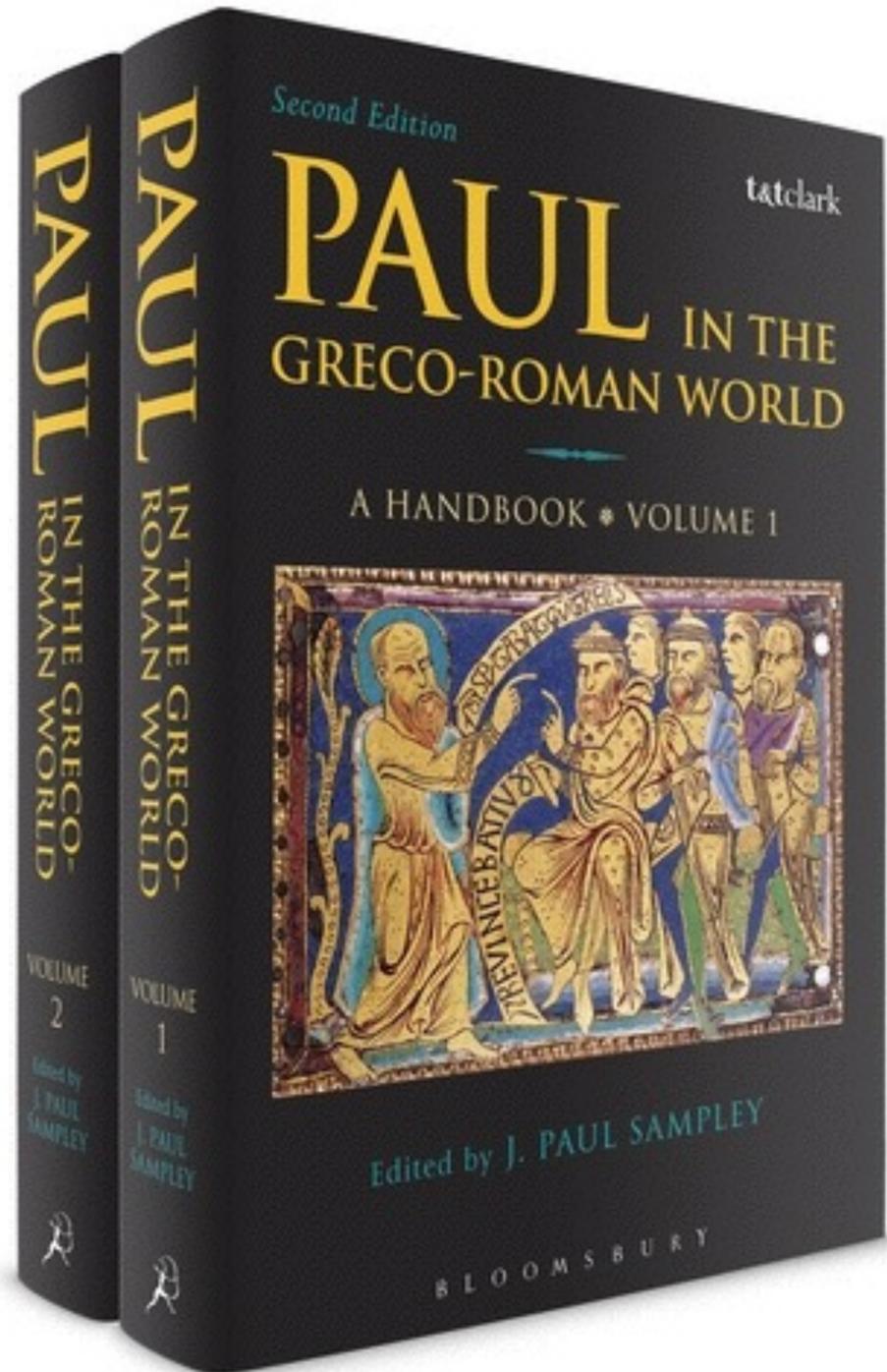


In chapter 12 “Paul and Frankness,” originally called “Paul and Frank Speech” (2003), Sampley talks of “Paul and parrhesia,” which he calls “frank speech”

He makes 13 points

1. Parrhesia and friendship
2. Parrhesia can lead to enmity.
3. Appropriate parrhesia.
4. Parrhesia—a call for changes, improvement
5. Parrhesia in all sorts of degrees.
6. Harsher and gentler parrhesia
7. Flattery and insult are not parrhesia.

Uneducated Paul

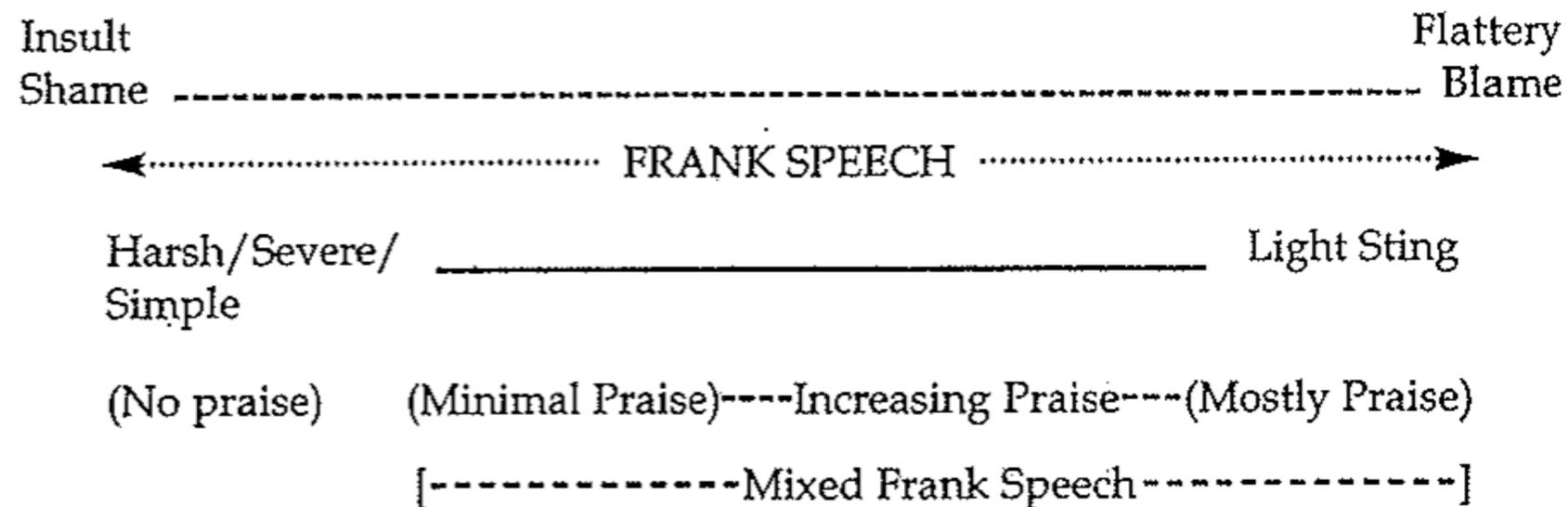
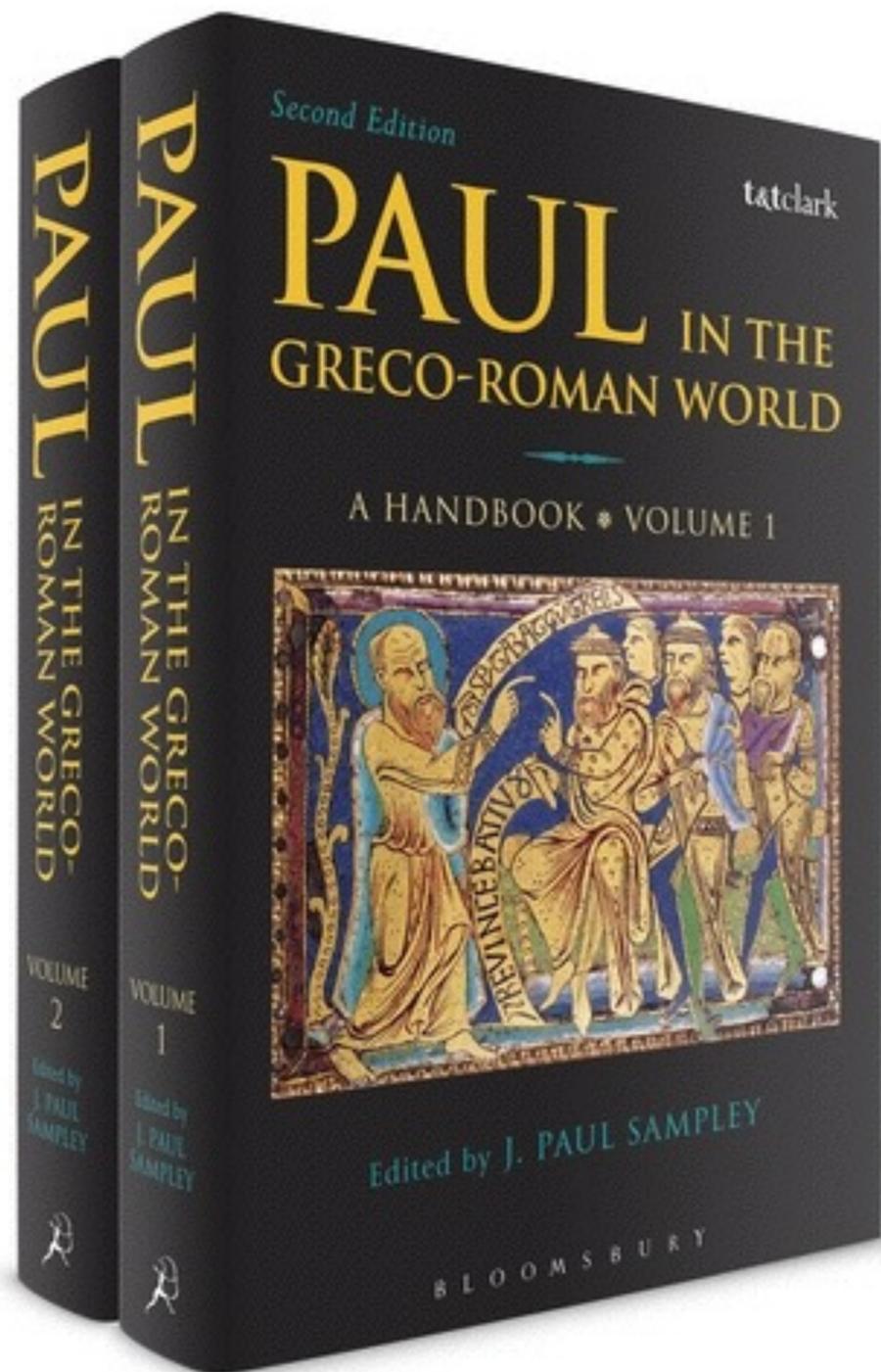


In chapter 12 “Paul and Frankness”, originally called “Paul and Frank Speech” (2003) Sampley talks of “Paul and parresia” which he calls “frank speech”

He makes 13 points, continued:

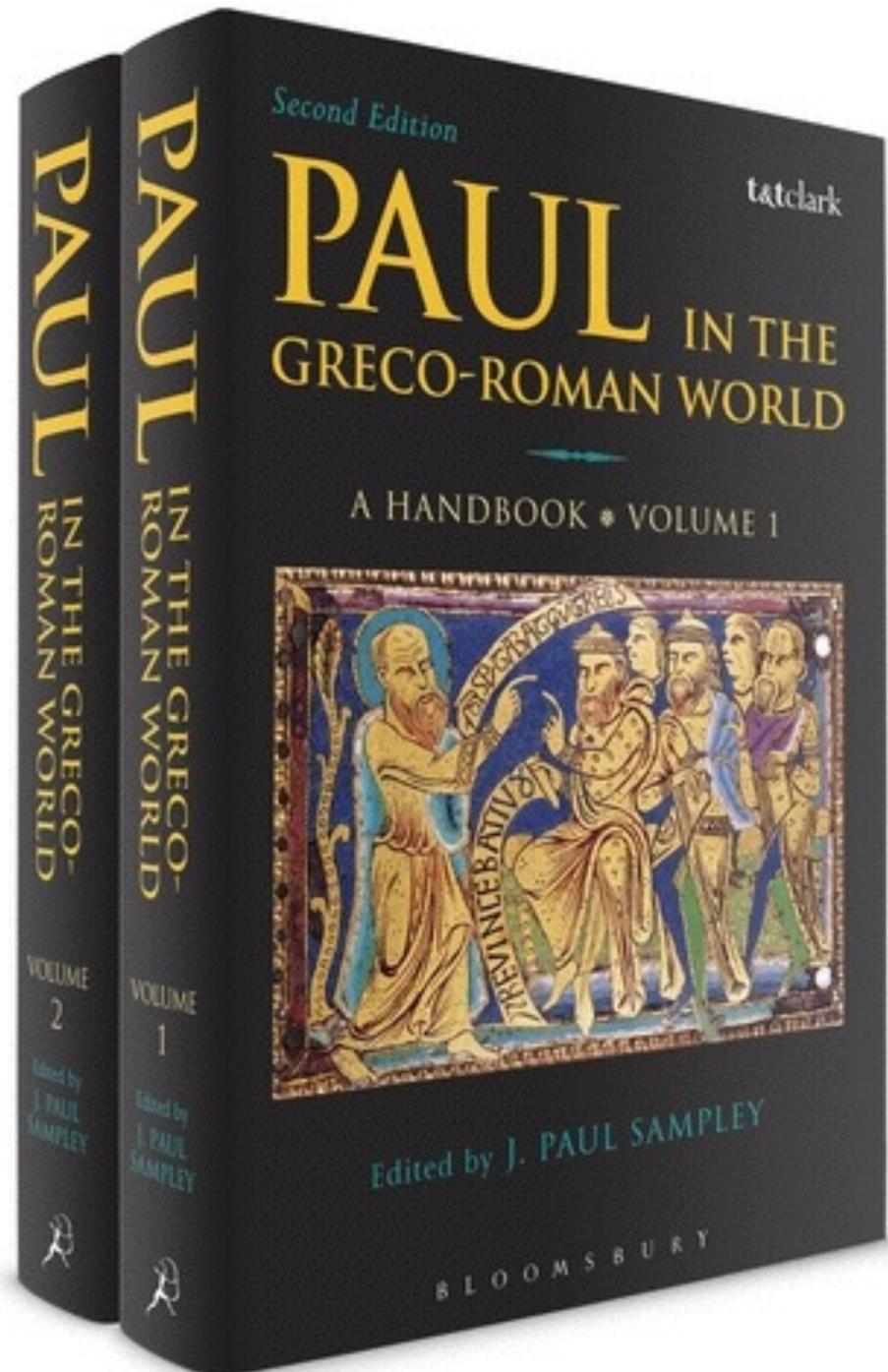
8. The ethos of those who would use parresia.
9. Parresia and good will.
10. The response to parresia.
11. The risk of parresia.
12. Parresia and moral reasoning.
13. Admonition, warning, instruction, reproof and censure.

Uneducated Paul



“Paul and Frank Speech” by J. Paul Sampley in *Paul in the Greco-Roman World*, p. 296.

Uneducated Paul



In the second part of his article he deals with several examples of Paul’s frank speech in his letters. This is so important!

- The letter to the Galatians
- 2 Corinthians 10–13
- Frankness in Philippians

I deal with frank speech extensively in my upcoming series (2019) on Paul’s Early Letters.

This is so important because we live in a world I call “evangelical nice.” Evangelical nice is expected in an evangelical and professional respect at the seminary level—but it is a curse on the Western church. (See appendix 5)

Shaping a Future Orality–Literacy Paradigm

Why are these issues so important?

- Issue one: teaching and preaching by discussion — not our Sunday morning “Greek oratory style”
- Issue 2: frank speech instead of “evangelical nice”

Minneapolis—7% attend a church / Z-Roman emperor / election—vague because I do not want to get banned by the CV-emperors

Shaping a Future Orality-Literacy Paradigm

Let me end with two practical applications

1. The grassroots, semi-literate leaders and churches in the Global South need to develop the ability to speak with confident authority.

⁹ He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. Titus 1:9

Shaping a Future Orality-Literacy Paradigm

Two practical applications, continued

2. Leaders and all believers in our churches today can learn to speak with confident authority just as Peter and John did, who were like Jesus.

Why do you think international leaders are amazed when they have conversations with all of you in your homes, when you pick them up from the airport, and as you serve them every day in the kitchen, the building, etc.?

When you speak with authority based on being established in the kerygma and didache, the Spirit is directing and filling you!

Finally, why do you think I said the professor at Gordon Conwell has lost the ability to speak with true *parresia*—the skillful, confident authority of Peter and John . . . and Jesus?

Paul's Frank Speech

Paul spoke with a skillful, confident authority that is foreign to our churches today.

It is why our Western church service is worthless for developing strong elders and established churches with strong families.

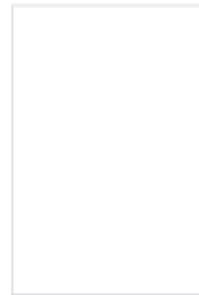
Question for Aaron

Question for me

Michael's question

Michael's recent example

OUR SUNDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE PARADIGM IS A VIOLATION OF
1 CORINTHIANS 2:1–5



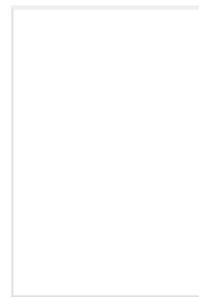
Establishing Churches and Training Leaders

All our people are in a developmental process:

Churches—elders, deacons, leading women

Clusters—senior elders

Hub—apostolic team



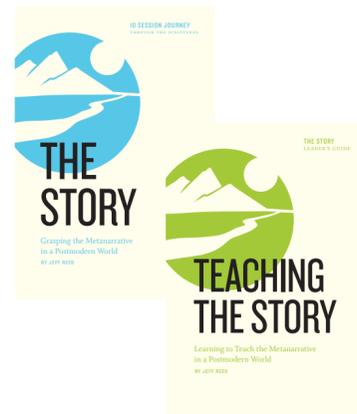
And all our people are developing “parresia.”

They are all in our developmental process.

Establishing Churches and Training Leaders

The core of our “uneducated package” is built around this 3-year establishing process—which is almost exactly what Paul did for 3 years with the Ephesian elders.

Establishing Process—3 Years



Kerygma
Early Acts
Apostles' Teaching
6 months



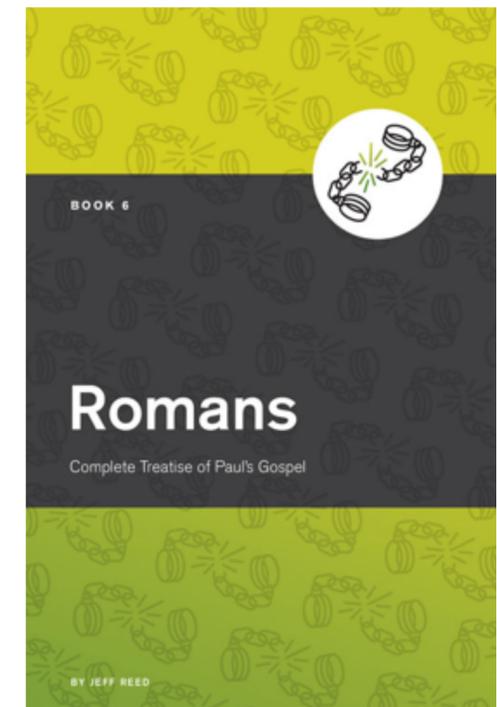
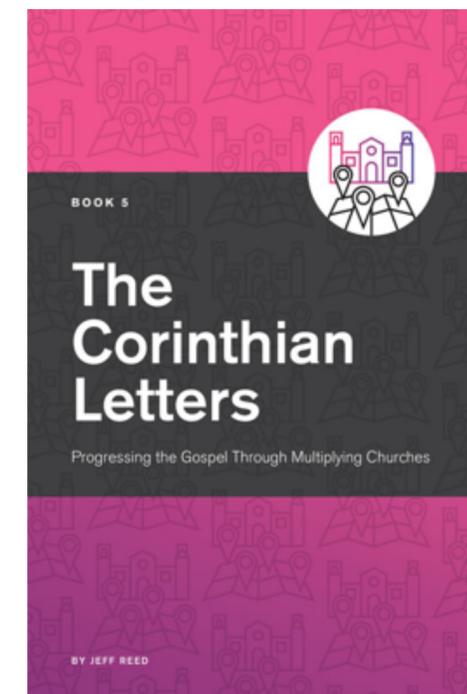
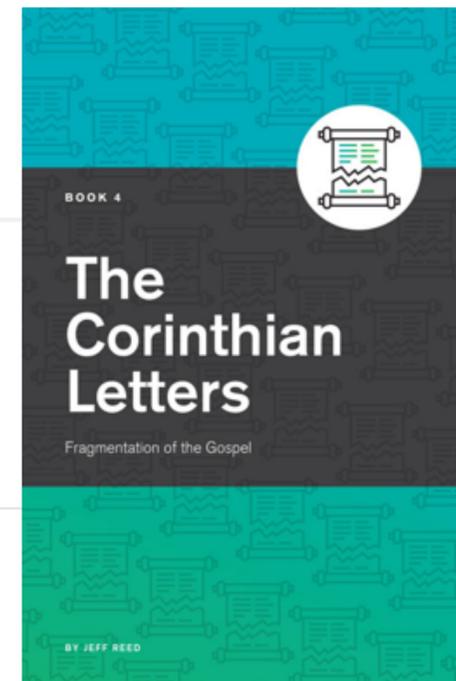
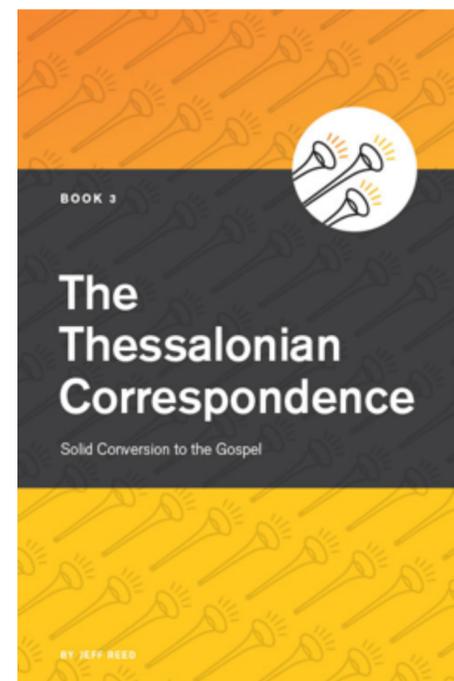
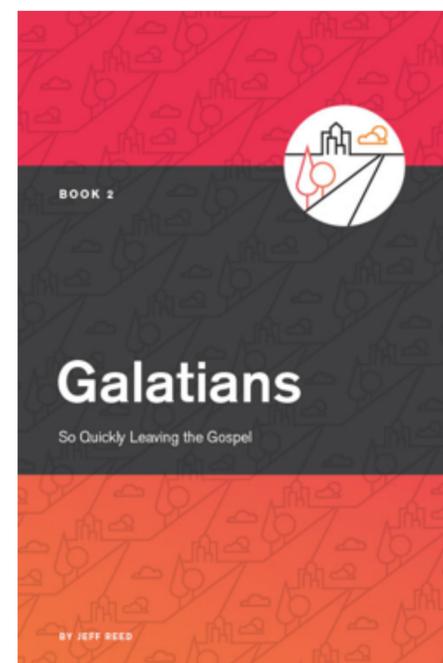
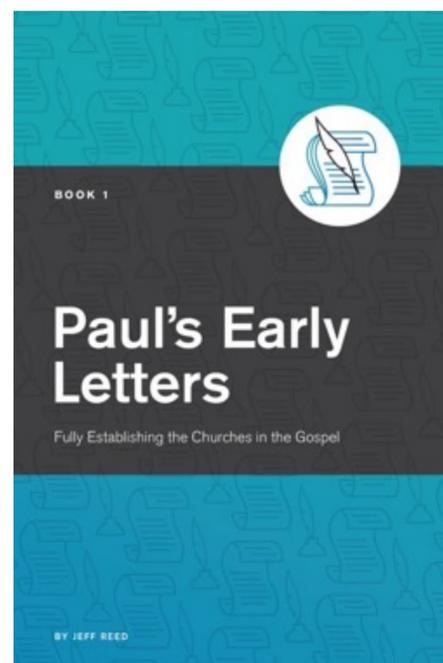
Didache
Body of Acts
Theology of Paul
1½ years
Paul: 3 years “night and day”



Full Kerygma
After Acts
Apostles' Gospels
1 year

Establishing Churches and Training Leaders

This series, which will be released at the 2019 BILD International Conference, will deal with Paul's "parresia" in a very extensive manner. This series, along with The Gospels Series, provides a very extensive treatment of the kerygma, as a complement to The First Principles Series—the didache.

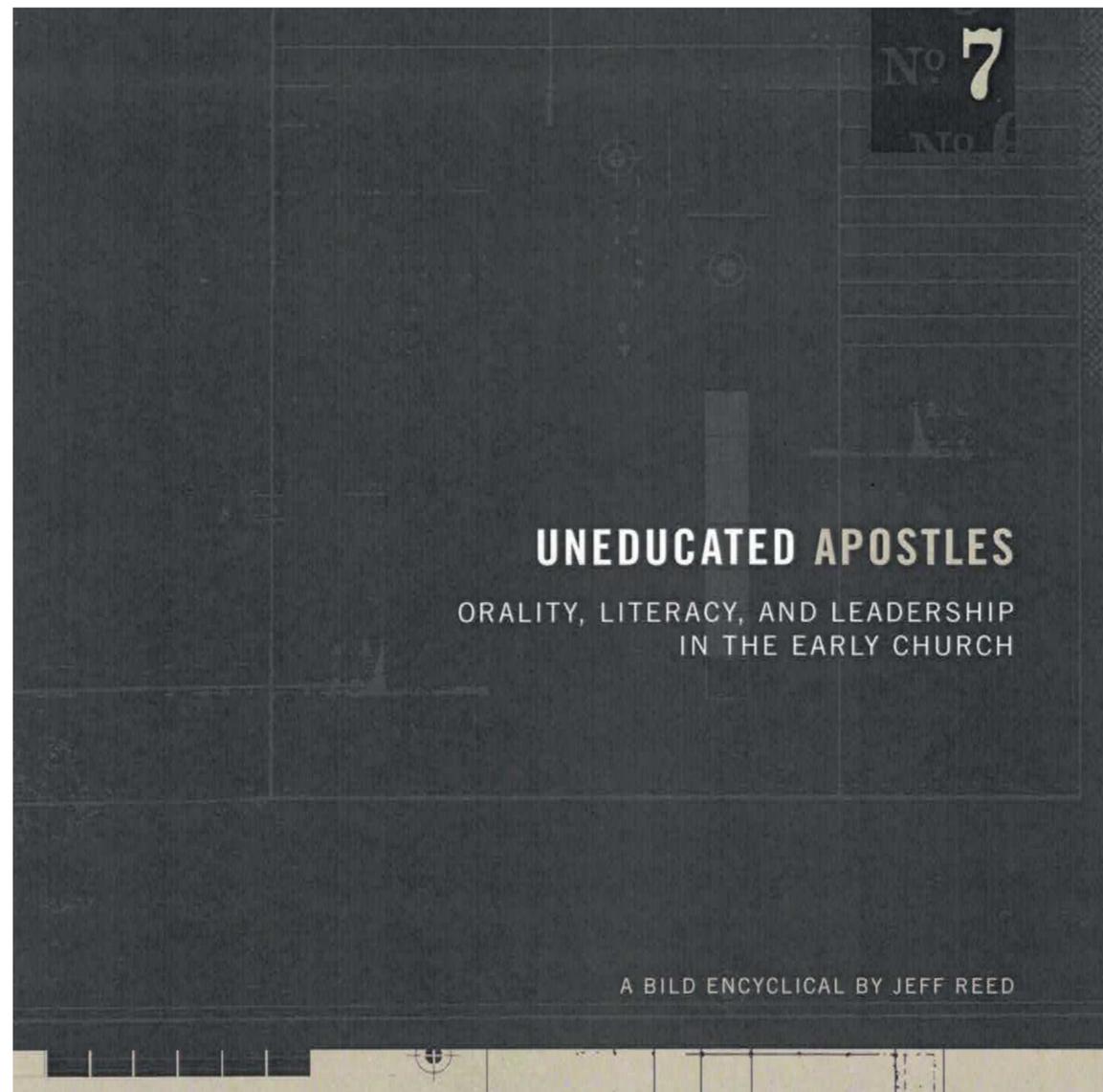


This Week, Thursday Night

Paul's view of the Ministry

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way—disputes without and fears within.

2 Cor 7:5





- Joseph (the Last Kid of Scotland)
- Josphat
- James - Rwanda (Hotel Rwanda)
- Mutokambali-Burundi
- Raymond DR Congo