



9. Paul

Journal for the Study of
the New Testament

2014, Vol. 36(5) 66–82

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DOI: 10.1177/0142064X14536312

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All Things to all Cultures: Paul among Jews, Greeks and Romans

Mark Harding & Alanna Nobbs, eds.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013, 978-0-8028-6643-1, \$50.00, xx + 406 pb

This volume consists of a range of scholarly reflections on Paul, his life, ministry and teaching. It is a collaborative work of 15 contributors of the Australian College of Theology and the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University. The first essay presents an overview on Pauline scholarship for the past century and a half, including latest discussions in Pauline studies. Chapter 2 maps out the chronology of Paul's life, recognizing its approximation and the impossibility of completing the task in an irrefutable form. Chapter 3 challenges biblical scholars to interact with scholars in other disciplines, viz. archaeologists, in order to broaden the perspectives on Paul's setting and communities. Chapter 4 engages readership with manuscripts of Paul's letters and ways they contribute to further understanding of his teaching. Chapter 5 deals with the question of what has happened to Paul on the Damascus road and how he interacts with the Jews. Chapters 6 and 7 are consequently on Paul among the Gentiles and specifically among the Romans. The first of these two essays asks the questions of who the Greeks are and to what extent Paul as the apostle to the nations is engaged with the Greek culture. The second essay places Paul and his teaching in the imperial context of his time, evaluating its influence and role in some of Paul's discussions. The subsequent chapters give an overview of Paul's correspondence, identifying key critical issues and disputed matters that affect our interpretation of Paul and his letters. The final chapter attempts to draw together theological considerations that contribute to overall delineation of Paul's theology. The book ends with two brief appendices on the significance of Acts when studying Paul and on tabular analysis of Paul's Asian epistles.

This volume does not pursue the interconnectedness between the essays. As a whole the collection is designed to inform its readership about relevant arguments and discussions in studies on Paul and to identify the areas or facets that need scrutiny and further research. As a whole the book will be a valuable asset for courses on Paul and his epistles.

Svetlana Khobnya

Paolo e le parole di Gesù: Frammenti di un insegnamento orale

Luigi Walt

ATN 20; Brescia: Morcelliana, 2013, 978-88-372-2700-5, €35.00, 512 pb

This volume by Luigi Walt, researcher at CISEC (Interdisciplinary Research Institute on Religious Studies) in the University of Bologna, seeks to clarify the relationship of Paul's writings and early Jesus traditions. It analyses all the Pauline texts that could contain possible allusions to the words of Jesus, in an attempt to reconstruct the *oral* teaching of Paul, thereby profiling Paul's contribution to the development of early Gospel traditions. After a long introduction (pp. 19-111), its main section (pp. 115-408) investigates 90 Pauline 'fragments'. An appendix listing the biblical and extra-biblical parallels for each of the fragments, and an exhaustive bibliography conclude the work.

Unsurprisingly, the book reflects the research concerns of CISEC and some of its leading figures—Mauro Pesce (*La trasmissione delle parole di Gesù nei primi tre secoli* [ATN 8; Morcelliana, 2011]) and Adriana Destro (*Encounters with Jesus: The Man, his Place, his Time* [Fortress, 2011; orig. 2008]) whose anthropological approach to the history of early Christianity has proven both fresh and fruitful. Walt's is not another search for the *ipsissima verba Jesu*; it is a broad questioning of 90 Pauline texts in the light of (1) the first-century Jewish identity of both Jesus and Paul, (2) a broader extra-canonical text base and (3) a constant social-scientific re-evaluation of the relationship between orality and scripture. While all his results may not convince, the questions Walt asks serve profoundly to raise critical awareness that while Paul's gospel did not grow in a Jesuanic vacuum, neither did the Gospels emerge in a Paul-free zone!

Seamus O'Connell

Paul and his Social Relations

Stanley E. Porter & Christopher D. Land, eds.

PAST 7; Leiden: Brill, 2013, 978-90-04-24211-1, €136.00, \$189.00, xii + 387 hb

This collection of essays constitutes the seventh volume in this series edited by S. Porter. It includes 11 essays revolving around the complex mix of Paul's social relationships. Some essays are broad in scope, situating Paul within the social world of the first century. Porter, for example, tackles the question of how Paul's social relations can be actually defined. B. Lowe continues the debate on how social conventions surrounding patronage may shed light on Paul's gospel and mission with reference to Romans. A. Pitts and J. Walker address an ever-present question, 'Who wrote Hebrews?' C. Stenschke surveys Paul's references to the church and to believers, concluding that Paul has a 'translocal' understanding of the church. Other essays are narrower, dealing with particular passages or specific people or groups of people. M. Batluck examines the relationship between Paul and Timothy. S. Adams explores the nature of relationship between Paul and Luke. J. Harrison discusses Paul's depiction of death in Rom. 5 in relation to the Roman 'culture of death' under Nero. Paul's relations with the church in Corinth are examined by Land and by P. Coutsoumpos. The last two essays focus on Philippians. M. Keown