

# Benefactor Epigraphic Study Of A Graecoroman And New Testament Semantic Field

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Paul's Financial Policy David E. Briones 2014-01-16 This book attempts to prove the consistent nature of Paul's financial policy by drawing from his social environment and theological convictions to tease out a three-way relational pattern with God as the source of all possessions. This three-way relational framework not only dictates Paul's decision to accept or reject finances from his churches but also directly challenges long-standing claims made about Paul's financial policy. After outlining the various approaches that scholars have taken to make sense of Paul's seemingly inconsistent financial policy, this book provides a close exegetical analysis of relevant passages in Philippians, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians in order to unearth a three-way relational pattern found in Philippians but that is absent from the Corinthian Correspondence. In Paul's positive gift-exchange relationship with the Philippians, God is acknowledged as the source of all possessions, whereas the Corinthians are criticized for striving after two-way exchanges that result in honor, power, and prestige. After this is demonstrated, a socio-theological reason for Paul's refusal of Corinthian gifts is propounded. Paul refused Corinthian support, not because they desired to patronise him as a dependent client, but because they sought to be under Paul as their superior, an act that neglected God as the superior source of all gifts in the divine economy. Paul therefore refuses their support to avoid two-way relationships of gift so prevalent in ancient society and to underscore the source of the gift of the gospel, the one from whom and through whom and to whom are all things - God.

**Honor, Patronage, Kinship, & Purity** David A. deSilva 2022-10-04 In this thoroughly revised and expanded edition of a milestone study, a careful explanation of four essential cultural themes offers readers a window into how early Christians sustained commitment to distinctly Christian identity and practice, and with it, a new appreciation of the New Testament, the gospel, and Christian discipleship.

**Empire in the New Testament** Stanley E. Porter 2011-01-01 How does a Christian render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God what is God's? This book is the result of the Bingham Colloquium of 2007 that brought scholars from across North America to examine the New Testament's response to the empires of God and Caesar. Two chapters lay the foundation for that response in the Old Testament's concept of empire, and six others address the response to the notion of empire, both human and divine, in the various authors of the New Testament. A final chapter investigates how the

church fathers regarded the matter. The essays display various methods and positions; together, however, they offer a representative sample of the current state of study of the notion of empire in the New Testament.

A review of the Greek and other inscriptions and papyri published in 1986-87 : in honour of Paul Barnett  
Stephen R. Llewelyn 2002

*The Pauline Church and the Corinthian Ekklesia* Richard Last 2016 This innovative volume is the first English-language monograph to compare Paul's Corinthian church with contemporary cult groups from Mediterranean antiquity.

Benefactor Frederick W. Danker 1982

Persuading Shipwrecked Men Lyn M. Kidson 2020-09-15 "In this work, Lyn M. Kidson moves away from the traditional interpretation of 1 Timothy as a church manual and argues that the coordinating purpose of the letter is to command 'certain men (and women)' not to teach an educational program that is being promoted by factional leaders Hymenaeus and Alexander."--

**The First Christians in the Roman World** E. A. Judge 2008 Collection of previously published essays and lectures.

*Ancient Letters and the Purpose of Romans* Aaron Ricker 2020-09-17 Aaron Ricker locates the purpose of Romans in its function as a tool of community identity definition. Ricker employs a comparative analysis of the ways in which community identity definition is performed in first-century association culture, including several ancient network letters comparable to Romans. Ricker's examination of the community advice found in Rom 12-15 reveals in this new context an ancient example of the ways in which an inscribed addressee community can be invited in a letter to see and comport itself as a "proper" association network community. The ideal community addressed in the letter to the Romans is defined as properly unified and orderly, as well accommodating to - and clearly distinct from - cultures "outside." Finally, it is defined as linked to a proper network with recognised leadership (i.e., the inscribed Paul of the letter and his network). Paul's letter to the Romans is in many ways a baffling and extraordinary document. In terms of its community-defining functions and strategies, however, Ricker shows its purpose to be perfectly clear and understandable.

Paul's Language of Grace in its Graeco-Roman Context James R. Harrison 2017-01-03 Paul's Language of Grace in Its Graeco-Roman Context was originally published by Mohr Siebeck in 2003 and is now reprinted by Wipf and Stock with a new introduction by its author, James R. Harrison. The book was the first major investigation of charis ('grace', 'favor') in its social, political, and religious context since G. P. Wetter's pioneering 1913 monograph on the topic. Focusing on the evidence of the inscriptions, papyri, philosophers, and Greek Jewish literature, Harrison examined the operations of the eastern Mediterranean benefaction system, probing the dynamic of reciprocity between the beneficiary and benefactor, whether human or divine. Before Paul's converts were first exposed to the gospel, they would have held a variety of beliefs regarding the beneficence of the gods. The apostle, therefore, needed to tailor his language of grace as much to the theological and social concerns of the Mediterranean city-states in his missionary outreach as to the variegated traditions of first-century Judaism. In terms of human grace, although Paul endorses the reciprocity system, he redefines its rationale in light of the gospel of grace and transforms its social expression in his house churches. The explosion of 'grace' language that occurs in 2 Corinthians 8-9 regarding the Jerusalem collection is

unusual in its frequency in comparison to the honorific inscriptions, underscoring the apostle's distinctive approach to giving. Regarding divine beneficence, Paul accommodates his gospel to contemporary benefaction idiom. But he retains a distinctiveness of viewpoint regarding divine charis: it is non-cultic; it is mediated through a dishonored and impoverished Benefactor; it overturns the *do ut des* expectation ('I give so that you may give') regarding divine blessing in antiquity. Harrison's book still remains the authoritative coverage of the Graeco-Roman context of charis.

New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity G. H. R. Horsley 1997-12-02 This series seeks to keep New Testament and early church researchers, teachers, and students abreast of emerging documentary evidence by reproducing and reviewing recently published Greek inscriptions and papyri that illumine the context in which the Christian church developed. Produced by the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre at Macquarie University, the New Docs volumes broaden the context of biblical studies and other related fields and provide a better understanding of the historical and social milieus of early Christianity.

*Persuasive Artistry* Duane F. Watson 1991-03-01 Crossing diverse strains of plants often yields a hybrid more vibrant than the parent strains. The same can be said of crossing diverse branches of knowledge, as in the integration of biblical and rhetorical studies that has produced the new hybrid of interpretative rhetorical criticism. This integration is due in no small measure to the creative efforts of George A. Kennedy. In this well-integrated volume of essays in his honour, 17 scholars display the influence of the approach taken by Kennedy and others upon the interpretation of the Gospels, Acts, Romans, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians.

**The Reign of God and Rome in Luke's Passion Narrative** Yong-sung Ahn 2006-03-01 From a Korean perspective, this book examines how Luke's Passion Narrative constructs the space-time of the Reign of God both in contest to and in compliance with that of Rome and shows how Luke's colonial relations complicate the Gospel's theological perspectives.

**Jesus, Patrons, and Benefactors** Jonathan Marshall 2015-05-01 Jonathan Marshall, born in 1978, earned his PhD in 2008. He has taught courses at Biola University (La Mirada, CA) and Eternity Bible College (Simi Valley, CA); currently, he serves as Associate Pastor in the Camarillo Evangelical Free Church (EFCA; Camarillo, CA).

*Parables and Rhetoric in the Sermon on the Mount* Ernst Baasland 2015-07-27 "Parable research has to a large degree ignored the Sermon on the Mount (SM) and for its part, research into the SM has likewise left the parables by the wayside. However, the use of parabolic language in more than one third of the SM influences its interpretation and indeed opens up a new approach to it. In the current volume, Ernst Baasland focuses on this important factor, whilst also taking the rhetoric of Jesus' teaching into consideration. The author maintains that rhetorical features have a great bearing on the interpretation of the text with the overall structure illuminating the entire composition of the sermon. Fresh insights into its oration therefore serve to challenge the source problem in a new way. The religious and philosophical settings of this most well-known of Christ's preachings are clarified by its parables and rhetoric; and the sermon's Jewish background has often been investigated. While the author continues with that particular task, he simultaneously affords more emphasis to the parallels in (Greek) Hellenistic literature. The combining of all these factors leads to a clearer comprehension of the Sermon on the Mount's philosophy of life and provides a better understanding of this classical text"--

**The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts** Robert C. Tannehill Tannehill shows how the narrative contributes

to the impact of Luke's literary whole. The study further shows that Luke's use of recurring words, patterns of repetition and contrast, irony, pathos, and many other features of this narrative contribute to the total fabric of Luke's masterpiece.

**An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy of the Hellenistic and Roman Periods from Alexander the Great Down to the Reign of Constantine (323 B.C.-A.D. 337)** Bradley Hudson McLean 2002 A crucial reference for students and scholars of Greek culture

*The Unity of Luke's Theology* Robert F. O'Toole 2016-03-09

Paul: Jew, Greek, and Roman Stanley E. Porter 2009-01-31 This volume, Paul: Jew, Greek, and Roman, explores a number of the important and diverse cultural, ethnic and religious dimensions of the complex background of Paul the Apostle. Some of the treatments are focused and specific, while others range over the broad issues that go to making up the world of the Apostle.

*Studies in Early Jewish Epigraphy* J. W. Vanhenten 1994 Enthält: Papers read at a conference on ancient Jewish epigraphy at Utrecht University.

*Prodigality, Liberality and Meanness* David Holgate 1999-08-01 This monograph interprets the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15.11-32) in the light of Graeco-Roman popular moral philosophy. Luke's special parables are rarely studied in this way, but the results of this study are very fruitful. The unity of the parable is supported, and it is shown to be deeply concerned with a major Lukan theme: the right use of possessions. The whole parable is read in terms of the moral topos 'on covetousness', and shown to be an endorsement of the Graeco-Roman virtue of liberality, modified by the Christian virtue of compassion.

Ephesians Ernest Best 1998-01-01 A major introduction, translation and verse-by-verse commentary. Professor Best provides an overall view of Ephesians which demonstrates the power and consistency of its author's work. Among the many important elements in this commentary, Ernest Best explores, for example, the relationship between the primarily theological aspects of Ephesians which concentrate on the nature of the church, and the primarily ethical aspects which concentrate on the behaviour of members of Christian communities towards one another. An indispensable reference for scholars, students and clergy.

Paul as Benefactor Stephan Joubert 2016-07-16 Stephan Joubert offers a new theoretical angle of incidence to Paul's collection by distinguishing between the basic interpretative framework within which the collection was conceptualized, and the various theological reflections on this project.

Pauline Persuasion Kieran O'Mahony 2001-03-01 This is a book about the use of classical rhetoric in reading Paul. It begins with a useful review of the various strategies, and, in the light of the issues that emerge, it describes a rhetorical method which is then tested on 2 Corinthians 8-9. Here, the advice of the classical rhetorical manuals for constructing a text is used in reverse order so as to uncover the persuasive strategy being used by Paul in this case. This technique leads to a quite new reading of the two chapters, which O'Mahony then proceeds to test against the standard work in the field by Hans Dieter Betz.

*Linguistic essays* G. H. R. Horsley 1989-01-01

**Paul and the Ancient Celebrity Circuit** James R. Harrison 2019-11-18 "In this study, James R. Harrison compares the modern cult of celebrity to the quest for glory in late republican and early imperial society. He shows how Paul's ethic of humility, based upon the crucified Christ, stands out in a world obsessed with mutual comparison, boasting, and self-sufficiency." --

Radical Philosophy of Life Ernst Baasland 2021-01-13 The Sermon on the Mount never ceases to challenge readers in every generation. New methods and new insights into new surroundings have to be applied to the most influential speech ever given. In this study, Ernst Baasland takes a fresh look at the history of research done on it, both on its broad influence and on the variety of interpretations. The historical questions are seen from new perspectives. Is orality the key to a better understanding? To what extent can we reconstruct a pre-text and the question of authenticity be answered? These questions are seen through historiographical lenses. The author argues in favour of a universal addressee and maintains that the speech contains radical philosophical thinking. The first audience consisted of Jews, and the religiously based understanding of life is conceived within Judaism. However, its ethics of wisdom is developed in a Hellenistic setting and provides a radical philosophy of life.

**Petrine Studies** Douglas W. Kennard 2022-10-18 Using a similar method to Kennard's biblical theology of Jesus, Hebrews, Isaiah, and Peter, Kennard's *Petrine Studies* fills out background issues, narrative biographical theology and practical life concerns from Mark. The companion volume, *Petrine Theology*, makes contributions to Peter's theology, including: Peter's Jewish heritage, bridging from Jesus to Paul, expressing compatible sovereignty and free will, high Christology, missional Trinity, Hebraic anthropology, Jewish atonement, redemption and new exodus, gospel as allegiance to Christ, contextual sociological ecclesiology, suffering and spiritual warfare in a narrow virtuous way to kingdom, and nuanced consistent eschatology. Following a combination of Mark, Peter's sermons in Acts and *Petrine* epistles, Gene Green claims that *Petrine Theology* makes unique contributions to Christian theology. PHEME Perkins concurs, "Peter is the universal 'foundation' for all the churches...There is no figure who compasses more of that diversity than Peter." F. J. Foakes-Jackson concluded, "the very fact that Peter was singled out by the unanimous voice of the writers of the NT for pre-eminence is sufficient reason why he should demand our serious attention." James Dunn celebrated, "Peter was probably in fact and effect the bridge-man (pontifex maximus!) who did more than any other to hold together the diversity of first-century Christianity."

*Exploring Second Corinthians* B. J. Oropeza 2016-04-15 A multi-faceted commentary that breathes fresh insight into Paul's letter In *Second Corinthians*, Paul responds to reports of the Corinthian congregation questioning his competency as a divinely sent messenger. Through apologetic demegoria and the use of graphic imagery related to triumphal processions, siege warfare, and emissary travels and negotiation, Paul defends his constancy, persona, and speaking abilities as he extends the offer of clemency and reconciliation to his auditors. Oropeza combines rhetorical pictures (rhetography) with interpretative layers (literary features, intertextuality, socio-cultural, ideological, and sacred textures) to arrive at the rhetorical impact of Paul's message for ancient Mediterranean discourse. Features: A visual, sensory, and imaginative interpretation of the scripture A comprehensive commentary An avant-garde approach to biblical interpretation

**Enabling Fidelity to God** Jason A. Whitlark 2009-02-19 The primary focus of this book is to demonstrate how Hebrews represents, in view of its historical and religious context, human fidelity to God. Thus, the basic thesis is twofold. First, with regard to the divine-human relationship in the ancient Mediterranean world, the belief in the reciprocity rationale was one primary dynamic for establishing fidelity to a relationship and has been applied by some scholars, such as David deSilva, to Hebrews as

the way to understand its strategy for creating perseverance. A major problem with the application of this dynamic is that a common optimistic anthropological assumption is associated with the various reciprocity systems in the ancient world, both Jewish and pagan. This assumption is required if reciprocity is to be effective for establishing ongoing fidelity. Second, there was, however, a middle Judaic stream that can be traced from the period of the exile which held to a pessimistic anthropology. This anthropological assumption crippled the perceived success of reciprocity to secure fidelity. Thus, the solution to God's people's inability to remain faithful was an act of God that transformed the human condition and enabled faithfulness to the relationship. The argument of this book is that Hebrews, with its emphasis upon the inauguration of the new covenant by Jesus' high priestly ministry, belongs to this latter stream of thought in understanding how fidelity is secured between God and his people. Hebrews, thus, implicitly rejects the rationale of reciprocity for fidelity. The implications of this offers a fresh perspective on the soteriology of Hebrews.

*Paul's Ekklesia as a Civic Assembly* Young-Ho Park 2015-04-21 How did Paul's term ekklesia formulate the Christian self-understanding? Young-Ho Park finds the answer in its strong civic connotation in the politico-cultural world of the Greek East under the Roman Empire. By addressing his local Gentile congregation as ekklesia in his letters, Paul effectively created a symbolic universe in which the Christ-worshippers saw themselves as the honorable citizens who represented the city before God. (Publisher).

*The First Urban Churches 3* James R. Harrison 2018-02-23 Investigate the challenges, threats, and opportunities experienced by the early church in Ephesus The third installment of *The First Urban Churches* focuses on the urban context of Christian churches in first-century Ephesus. As with previous volumes, contributors illustrate how an investigation of the material evidence will help readers understand properly the challenges, threats, and opportunities that the early Ephesian believers faced in that city. Brad Bitner, James R. Harrison, Michael Haxby, Fredrick J. Long, Guy M. Rogers, Michael Theophilos, Paul Trebilco, and Stephan Witetschek demonstrate decisively the difference that such an approach makes in grappling with the meaning and context of the New Testament writings, particularly Ephesians, Acts, and Revelation. Features Analysis of urban evidence of the inscriptions, papyri, archaeological remains, coins, and iconography Proposed reconstructions of the past and its social, religious and political significance A nuanced, informed portrait of ancient urban life in Ephesus

**Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook** J. Paul Sampley 2016-10-06 This landmark handbook, written by distinguished Pauline scholars, and first published in 2003, remains the first and only work to offer lucid and insightful examinations of Paul and his world in such depth. Together the two volumes that constitute the handbook in its much revised form provide a comprehensive reference resource for new testament scholars looking to understand the classical world in which Paul lived and work. Each chapter provides an overview of a particular social convention, literary or rhetorical topos, social practice, or cultural mores of the world in which Paul and his audiences were at home. In addition, the sections use carefully chosen examples to demonstrate how particularly features of Greco-Roman culture shed light on Paul's letters and on his readers' possible perception of them. For the new edition all the contributions have been fully revised to take into account the last ten years of methodological change and the helpful chapter bibliographies fully updated. Wholly new chapters cover such issues as Paul and Memory, Paul's Economics, honor and shame in Paul's writings and the Greek novel.

**The Politics of Munificence in the Roman Empire** Arjan Zuiderhoek 2009-04-27 A study of public benefactions by elite individuals to their communities in Roman Asia Minor.

**Paul and the Imperial Authorities at Thessalonica and Rome** James R. Harrison 2011 James R.

Harrison investigates the collision between Paul's eschatological gospel and the Julio-Claudian conception of rule. The ruler's propaganda, with its claim about the 'eternal rule' of the imperial house over its subjects, embodied in idolatry of power that conflicted with Paul's proclamation of the reign of the risen Son of God over his world. This ideological conflict is examined in 1 and 2 Thessalonians and in Romans, exploring how Paul's eschatology intersected with the imperial cult in the Greek East and in the Latin West. A wide selection of evidence - literary, documentary, numismatic, iconographic, archeological - unveils the 'symbolic universe' of the Julio-Claudian rulers. This construction of social and cosmic reality stood at odds with the eschatological denouement of world history, which, in Paul's view, culminated in the arrival of God's new creation upon Christ's return as Lord of all. Paul exalted the Body of Christ over Nero's 'body of state', transferring to the risen and ascended Jesus many of the ruler's titles and to the Body of Christ many of the ruler's functions. Thus, for Paul, Christ's reign challenged the values of Roman society and transformed its hierarchical social relations through the Spirit.

Seek the Welfare of the City Bruce W. Winter 1994 In this book, Bruce W. Winter maps out the role and obligations of Christians as benefactors and citizens in their society. Winter's scholarly insight is enhanced through the selective use of important ancient literary and nonliterary sources. Contrary to the popular perception that early Christians withdrew from society and sought to maintain a low profile, this outstanding study explores the complexities of the positive commitments made by Christians in Gentile regions of the Roman empire.

Jesus as Mediator Malcolm Gill 2008 This book addresses the influence of the imperial cult in first-century AD Asia Minor and its subsequent relevance to the reading of the New Testament. In particular, this work argues, through a contrapuntal reading of 1 Timothy 2:1-7, that the early Christian community strongly resisted the Emperor's claim to be the «mediator» between the gods and humanity. In contrast to this claim, the author shows that 1 Timothy 2:1-7 can be read as a polemic from a minority community, the Christian church in Ephesus, against the powerful voice of the Roman Empire in regard to divine mediation.

*Poverty in the Early Church and Today* Steve Walton 2019-01-24 This book is open access and available on [www.bloomsburycollections.com](http://www.bloomsburycollections.com). It is funded by Knowledge Unlatched. This innovative volume focuses on the significance of early Christianity for modern means of addressing poverty, by offering a rigorous study of deprivation and its alleviation in both earliest Christianity and today's world. The contributors seek to present the complex ways in which early Christian ideas and practices relate to modern ideas and practices, and vice versa. In this light, the book covers seven major areas of poverty and its causes, benefaction, patronage, donation, wealth and dehumanization, 'the undeserving poor', and responsibility. Each area features an expert in early Christianity in its Jewish and Graeco-Roman settings, paired with an expert in modern strategies for addressing poverty and benefaction; each author engages with the same topic from their respective area of expertise, and responds to their partner's essay. Giving careful attention to both the continuities and discontinuities between the ancient world and today, the contributors seek to inform and engage church leaders, those working in NGOs concerned with poverty, and all interested in these crucial issues, both Christian and not.

**The Unity of Luke's Theology** Robert F. O'Toole S. J. 2016-03-09

The Offering of the Gentiles David J. Downs 2016-05 The monetary fund that the apostle Paul organized among his Gentile congregations for the Jewish-Christian community in Jerusalem was clearly an important endeavor to Paul; discussion of it occupies several prominent passages in his letters. In this

book David Downs carefully investigates that offering from historical, sociocultural, and theological standpoints. Downs first pieces together a chronological account of Paul's fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Jerusalem church, based primarily on information from the Pauline epistles. He then examines the sociocultural context of the collection, including gift-giving practices in the ancient Mediterranean world relating to benefaction and care for the poor. Finally, Downs explores how Paul framed this contribution rhetorically as a religious offering consecrated to God. (Publisher).