

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Preface | V |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Voices of Others Matter! | 1 |
| 1.2 An Interactionist Perspective: “Multiple Identities,” “Others,” and Rumors | 4 |
| 1.3 From Founder of Christianity to Apostolic Judaism: Pauline Scholarship – A Sketch | 8 |
| 1.4 Approach | 16 |
| 1.5 The Torah and Jewish Identity | 23 |
| 2 It Takes Two to Have an Interaction: Sketching Paul for Reasons of Transparency | 27 |
| 2.1 Addressees and Horizons or Implications of Paul’s Theology Are Not Identical | 27 |
| 2.2 Paul’s Theology Is Not Identical to Its Occasion | 36 |
| 2.3 Damascus: Between Biography and Theology | 37 |
| 2.4 Immediate Damascus: Commission and Abandoning Persecutions | 39 |
| 2.5 Damascus: A Tandem Disturbed or the Torah and Christ | 41 |
| 2.6 Damascus: A Paradigm | 44 |
| 2.7 What about 1 Cor 7:19? | 47 |
| 2.8 The Naming Game | 50 |
| 3 Paul’s First Interpreters: Judean Christ Believers and Galatian Adversaries | 55 |
| 3.1 Between Rhetoric and History | 56 |
| 3.2 First Embedded Dictum: Gal 1:23 on Paul’s Turnabout What Change? | 59 |
| 3.3. The Galatian Situation: Opponents Mirror-Reading the Opponents | 62 |
| | 64 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 3.4 Second Embedded Dictum: “Christ a Servant of Sin?” (Galatians 2:17) | 70 |
| Counter-Exhortation | 76 |
| 3.5 Third Dictum: The Law Opposed to the Promises of God? (Gal 3:21) | 80 |
| 3.6 Fourth Dictum: Paul Preaching Circumcision (Gal 5:11) | 83 |
| 3.7 Summary | 90 |
| 4 Roman Debates: The Absurdity of Paul’s Gospel | 93 |
| 4.1 Entering Romans through Romans 3:8 | 93 |
| 4.2 The Structure and Line of Thought in Romans 3:1–8 | 94 |
| 4.3 Diatribe: Between Rhetoric and Objections | 97 |
| The So-Called Jew in the Diatribe | 99 |
| 4.4 The Absurdity of Paul’s Gospel: The Dictum of Romans 3:8 | 104 |
| Romans 3:8 in its Romans Context | 105 |
| Blasphemous | 106 |
| The Dictum | 107 |
| 4.5 Paul Responds | 110 |
| 4.6 Romans 16:17–20: Who Paves the Way for Moral Permissiveness? Finding a Context | 115 |
| Out of Context – But Still in Romans | 116 |
| 4.7 Romans 9–11: God’s Promises and Paul’s Gospel | 121 |
| 4.8 Summary | 124 |
| 5 A Contemporary Context? | 129 |
| 5.1 The Necessity of Circumcision | 130 |
| Gentiles Residing Among Jews | 131 |
| The Adiabene Case | 133 |
| Philo and the Allegorists in Alexandria | 137 |
| 5.2 The Law as an Antidote against Sinful Life | 144 |
| 5.3 The Continuum of Abraham’s Biography | 148 |
| 6 What’s in a Punishment? The Lashes of 2 Corinthians 11:24 | 155 |
| 6.1 Context – In Paul’s Ministry and the Corinthian Correspondence | 155 |
| “Foolish Talk” | 158 |
| 6.2 Between Reality and Fiction | 161 |
| Message and Medium: Prophetic Prototype? | 162 |
| 6.3 The Punishment and What It Speaks | 164 |
| Apostasy? | 165 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Sociology of Punishments | 168 |
| Persecutions and Persecuted | 170 |
| A Persistent Troublemaker | 173 |
| 6.4 What Do the Lashes Speak When Mentioned? | 175 |
| 6.5 Summary | 175 |
| | |
| 7 Paul and the Law in the Book of Acts: An Ambiguous Picture | 179 |
| 7.1 Reading Acts Backwards | 182 |
| 7.2 Paul Accused and Defended | 183 |
| In Jerusalem (Acts 21:17–36) | 185 |
| Apostasy? | 186 |
| In Caesarea (Acts 24:5–8) | 191 |
| Group or Heresy? | 192 |
| In Corinth: Law, Order, and Torah (Acts 18:12–17) | 194 |
| 7.3 Law and Salvation in Acts | 198 |
| 7.4 Summary | 200 |
| | |
| 8 Final Summary and Implications | 205 |
| 8.1 Sources and Approach | 205 |
| 8.2 Findings – Snapshots | 208 |
| 8.3 Recent Research on Paul and the Torah from an Interactionist Perspective | 211 |
| The Power of Sin | 211 |
| Decentering Torah | 212 |
| For Gentiles Only? | 212 |
| 8.4 A Polarizing Figure within Judaism | 214 |
| | |
| Bibliography | 219 |
| Sources, Dictionaries and Grammars | 219 |
| Secondary Literature | 220 |
| | |
| Indices | 243 |
| Index of Ancient Sources | 243 |
| Index of Modern Authors | 256 |
| Key Subjects | 260 |