

Sin, the Human Predicament,
and Salvation in
the Gospel of John

Mathew E. Sousa

t&tclark

LONDON • NEW YORK • OXFORD • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	viii
List of Abbreviations	ix
1 Introduction	1
The Human Predicament in John's Gospel: Assessing the Claims of Scholarship	1
Considering Experience	9
Considering Christian Theology	10
Thesis, Method, and Program	16
2 Life and Light, Darkness and Ignorance of God: The Prologue as Introduction to the Human Predicament and Its Solution	21
The Incarnation of Life and Light in the Darkness	22
The Extent of the Darkness	30
The Mission of Jesus	32
The Problem of Ignorance of God	41
Conclusion	47
3 Illness, Disability, and Death: The Man with a Disabling Illness at Bethzatha and Jesus's Consequent Monologue	49
The Man at Bethzatha, Illness, and Disability	52
Illness and Disability in the Wider Narrative of John's Gospel	60
Summary and Implications	63
To Pass from Death into Life	65
Death as a Bodily and Relative Reality	65
Death as a Way of Life	67
Conclusion	69

4	Sin and Its Effects: The Case of “the Jews” Who Believe and Fall Away	71
	Sin and the Believers Who Fall Away	73
	Doing Wrong, Having Guilt, and the Nature of Liberation from Sin	86
	Conclusion	93
5	Conclusions and Reflections	95
	Bibliography	101
	Index of Modern Authors	111
	Index of Ancient Sources	114
	Index of Subjects	129