

Table of Contents

Prologue	1
Part I: Approaching Paul	15
1. Understanding Paul as a First-Century Jew in the Twenty-First Century: The Problem of Relevance, Bias, and Approach	17
1.1 The Nature of the Text and the Search for a Persuasive Paul . . .	17
1.2 History and Its Usefulness: Paul Within and Beyond Christianity	24
1.3 Paul Within Judaism: The Issue of Collective Bias	33
1.4 Excavating Paul: Beyond the Parting of the Ways Paradigm . . .	40
2. Particularistic Judaism and Universalistic Christianity? Critical Remarks on Terminology and Theology	59
2.1 Terminology and Theological Pitfalls	59
2.2 The Terms “Universalism” and “Particularism” in Current Usage	61
2.3 More Precise Terminology: A Suggestion	67
2.4 The New Terminology in Use	72
2.5 Beyond the Universal and the Particular	82
3. Was there a Christian Mission Before the Fourth Century CE? Problematicizing Common Ideas About Early Christianity	85
3.1 Jewish Mission Then and Now	85
3.2 Mapping the Area – Initial Steps	86
3.3 Changing the Facts on the Ground: The Creation of “Religion” (and “Christianity”)	88
3.4 Pre-Christian Mission Beyond “Religion”	91
3.4.1 Defining “Mission”	91
3.4.2 Outlining Parameters and a Mode of Procedure	93
3.5 The Private Sphere: The Role of the House in Spreading a Cult.	94
3.6 The Dynamic Space In-Between: Associations and Mysteries . .	99
3.7 Claiming the World: Colonialism as Theo-Political Pattern for Proselytizing Mission	108
3.7.1 Conquest and Mission	109

3.7.2 Restoration and Counter-Colonialism: The Margins Strike Back	111
3.8 From Jerusalem to Rome – A One Way Ticket?	115
4. Entering the Conversation on Paul: Was he a Christian and did he Attend Church?	119
4.1 Terminology as Translation	119
4.2 Translating History: Colonizing the Past or Liberating the Dead?	120
4.3 Changing the Architecture of the Conversation	122
4.4 “Christians”/“Christianity”	123
4.5 “Church”	130
4.6 On Carrying One’s Own Hermeneutical Burden	135
Part II: Reading Paul	137
5. Entering a Synagogue with Paul: First-Century Torah Observance	139
5.1 Who is a Jew?	139
5.2 Defining Torah Observance Beyond Rabbinic Institutions	142
5.2.1 Open to All: Torah in Jewish Civic Institutions	143
5.2.2 Members Only: Torah in Jewish Associations	147
5.3 Paul and the Diversity of Pre-Rabbinic Judaism	151
6. Paul’s World: Women, Men, and Power	155
6.1 Paul and his Female Apostles	155
6.2 Women in Ancient Society: How do we Ask the Question?	159
6.3 The Public Sphere: Politics, the Right to Vote, and Civic Administration	161
6.4 The Private Sphere: Women Inside and Outside the House	163
6.5 Associations: Men and Women as Leaders and Members	165
6.6 Junia: Exception or Rule?	169
6.7 Women in Christ-Groups Before Christianity	172
7. Placing Paul: Understanding Theological Strategy in Institutional Context	175
7.1 Approaching the Question: Introducing Institution Criticism	175
7.2 Judaism and “the Synagogue”	179
7.3 Jesus, Kingdom, Synagogue	181
7.4 Christ as Association in Paul’s Three-Dimensional Theology	185
7.5 Jesus and Israel, Paul and Empire	192
8. Paul’s Rule in all the <i>Ekklēsiiai</i> : Finding a Core in his Message	195
8.1 Is there a Core in Pauline Thought?	195

Table of Contents

IX

8.2	Structure and Meaning	196
8.3	Theology and Socio-Ritual Behavior	197
8.3.1	Circumcision	198
8.3.2	Slavery	201
8.4	Theology and Ecclesial Context	202
8.5	The Spirit and the Universal Fulfillment of Jewish Law	204
9.	Paul and the Joining of the Ways	207
9.1	From Parting to Joining	207
9.2	Universalism Through Particularism?	211
9.2.1	Gentile Inclusion: Ethnicity	213
9.2.2	Gentile Inclusion: Salvation	216
9.2.3	Gentile Inclusion: Mission	219
9.3	From Joining to Parting	222
Part III: After Paul		227
10.	Jewish and Christian Interaction from the First to the Fifth Century CE	229
10.1	Studying Jewish and Christian Interaction: Problems and Procedure	229
10.2	Interaction in Public Civic Settings: Local, National, Imperial	234
10.3	Interaction Within and Between Associations	242
10.4	Interaction in Private/Domestic Settings	249
10.5	Problematizing the so-called Parting of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity	255
11.	Inventing Christian Identity: From Paul To Theodosius I	259
11.1	A Simple Question to be Approached with Great Care	259
11.2	“Don’t Trust the Horse!” Terminology, Categories, and the Battle for Historical Precision	261
11.3	Re-thinking the Question	274
11.4	The How, When, and Why of Christian Identity: Some Tentative Suggestions	279
11.5	What has Not been Said, and What has	287
12.	The Rise of Normative Judaism and Christianity	293
12.1	From Restoring a Kingdom to Destroying a Nation	293
12.2	Bringing Normativity into Being: The Language of Oughtness	295
12.3	Synagogues, Churches, and Empire	297
12.4	Christian Colonialism and Jewish Resistance	301
12.5	Theological Violence and its Real-World Counterpart	305

Part IV: Theologizing Paul	309
13. Reforming the Reformer: Reading Paul with Luther in Contemporary Europe and Beyond	311
13.1 Theology: A Matter of Life and Death	311
13.2 Jewish Identity within the <i>ekklesiā</i>	318
13.3 The Salvation of the Jewish ‘Other’: The Victory of God’s Love	323
13.4 The Theological Imperative: Choose Life	326
Epilogue	329
List of Original Publications	339
List of Illustrations	341
Bibliography	343
Ancient Texts Index	373
Modern Authors Index.	383
Subject Index	391