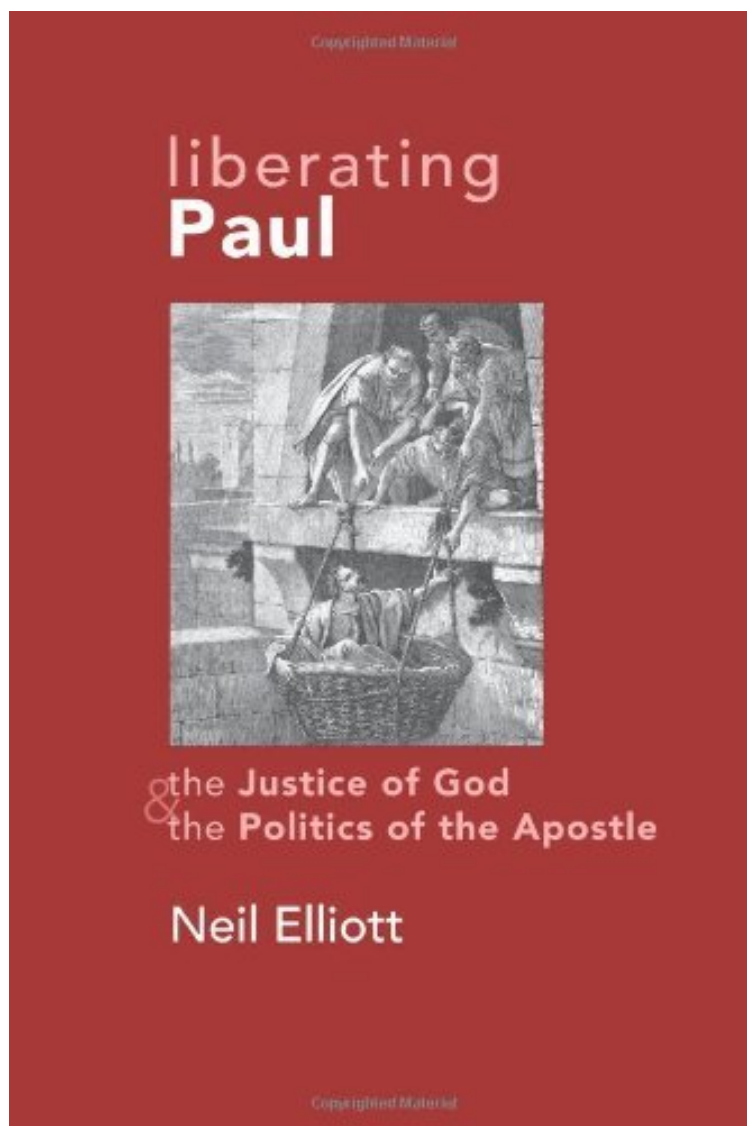


LIBERATING PAUL

Von Neil Elliott

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Von Neil Elliott : LIBERATING PAUL before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised LIBERATING PAUL:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Epistle liberation theologyVon Eric L DoolittleDr. Elliott makes a wonderful argument for a new reading of Paul. He looks past the screen of history (especially Luther's views on Paul) and allows the context of the 1st century Meditanean world shape the possible intentions of the Apostle. While this book presents solid arguments of history and language

criticism, Elliott's conclusions are liberal and might upset people with closed minds.

KurzbeschreibungFor centuries the apostle Paul has been invoked to justify oppression - whether on behalf of slavery, to enforce unquestioned obedience to the state, to silence women, or to legitimate anti-Semitism. To interpret Paul is thus to set foot on a terrible battleground between spiritual forces. But as Neil Elliott argues, the struggle to liberate human beings from the power of Death requires "liberating Paul" from his enthrallment to that power. In this book, Elliott shows that what many people experience as the scandal of Paul is the unfortunate consequence of the way Paul has usually been read, or rather misread, in the churches. In the first half of the book, Elliott examines the many texts historically interpreted to support oppression or maintain the status quo. He shows how often Paul's authentic message has been interpreted in the light of later pseudo-Pauline writings. In Part Two, Elliott applies a "political key" to the interpretation of Paul. Though subsequent centuries have turned the cross into a symbol of Christian piety, Elliott forcefully reminds us that in Paul's time this was the Roman mode of executing rebellious slaves, a fact that has profound political implications. Under Elliott's examination, a startlingly new image of Paul begins to emerge, liberated from layers of false interpretation, and free to speak a liberating and challenging word to our world today.

AutorenkommentarThe Apostle Paul--not as awful as you thought. When I told a friend I was writing a book about the apostle Paul, her immediate response was, "I hope you're going to put him in his place." I sympathize with people who have little love for St. Paul (the man, I mean--who couldn't love St. Paul, the city?). After all, he is often quoted by the sort of Christians who want women to be silent and submissive, think affirmative action is a bad idea, believe AIDS is "God's punishment for homosexuality," and think the only "bad war" is one "we" didn't win. I don't think these people (you know the type) should get the last word on what the apostle was all about. In a way, I did write "Liberating Paul" to "put Paul in his place"--in his historical context, that is. That means, in part, relying on Paul's own writings, not writings falsely attributed to him by the later church. While I suspect most Paul scholars would agree that the views I just described depend on Bible texts that Paul probably didn't write--the technical term is "pseudepigrapha": in plain English, these texts are widely considered to be forgeries--most scholars continue to acquiesce in the embarrassing picture of Paul peddled by Christian conservatives. That has to stop, and "Liberating Paul" is a contribution to that end. I bring together some of the best of recent scholarship to compose a startling new picture of Paul. The apostle who emerges here won't please everyone--but that isn't the point. If we can "liberate Paul" from centuries of misinterpretation--some of it accidental, some of it quite deliberate--we discover a far more "liberating Paul" than we could have imagined. And that discovery sets the origins of the Christian religion in a surprising new light.