



fortress press

discussion guide

Fortress Press Video

n. t. wright on paul and the faithfulness of god

A conversation with Michael J. Gorman



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Use the following questions for personal reflection, essay composition, and classroom discussion.

1. N. T. Wright says that he structured *Paul and the Faithfulness of God* around four basic inquiries: (1) Paul's historical context, (2) Paul's worldview/mindset, (3) Paul's theological reflection on who God is, who God's people are, and what God's promises and purposes are, and (4) how Paul related to his imperial, religious, philosophical, and Jewish world. Why does Wright say he wanted to look at Paul's worldview before looking at his theology? How might the order of this structure inform your own scholarly writing about Paul and your own interpretation of the letters of Paul?
2. Paul's theology, says Wright, is a redefinition of the central Jewish topics of monotheism, election, and eschatology in light of the crucified and risen Messiah and the Spirit. What thought experiment did Wright execute, first in relationship to monotheism and then in relationship to election and eschatology, and what were the results of that thought experiment? How does this model of scholarly inquiry inform your own biblical interpretation? What thought experiments are you currently developing?
3. Professor Wright says that in this new book he takes his readers step-by-step through all the key texts regarding Paul and justification. What new connections did you hear in the video between what God has done in the death and resurrection of Jesus, the work of the Spirit, and the confession of individual faith? How do you respond to his chapter on justification in the book?
4. In this book why does Wright strongly emphasize that Christ is not Jesus' last name? What are the reasons why Wright consistently understands Christos as Messiah?
5. Dr. Wright names some of the controversies in Pauline scholarship and says that his new book is in many ways working on reconciliation among these controversies. What is your response to reconciliation as being a new path for Pauline scholarship?
6. In response to Dr. Gorman's question about what are the most important things Paul has to say to us today, which of Dr. Wright's three answers most strongly resonates with you? Why? Do you have another answer to Dr. Gorman's question?