

Foreword

In December 2011, at King's College London, was convened a conference critically engaging with Douglas Campbell's monumental *The Deliverance of God*. A follow-up conference was held in November 2012 at Duke Divinity School. The present volume arises from papers presented at these gatherings. It is appropriate that the first conference took place at King's, where Douglas's work on the project that would lead to *Deliverance* began in earnest. I was a colleague of his during his time at King's and witnessed first hand the early birth pangs of the project. It was a great delight to welcome my old friend back to King's to celebrate and reflect critically on his achievement. And what an achievement! The breathtaking vision of the work, the immense learning that Douglas demonstrates, the depth of his conceptual penetration, the boldness and originality of his thinking, and his extraordinary ability to mount and sustain a highly complex yet sharply focused argument over the course of more than 1,200 pages make *Deliverance* a truly astonishing intellectual feat.

The Deliverance of God is one of the most significant books on Paul's theology ever written (as well as one of the longest!) and as such deserves very serious scholarly attention. The two conferences were structured to give Douglas an opportunity to recapitulate and clarify his main claims in the book and to enable invited biblical scholars, church historians, and theologians to offer their critical reactions to aspects of the work. Participants were generally in sympathy with a good deal of what Douglas says in the book, and where critical concerns were raised and (sometimes strong) disagreements were expressed, appreciative notes were also sounded. The friendly tenor of the conference proceedings is reflected in the volume contributions.

The title chosen for the first conference, retained for the second, and adopted as the title of the present book, reflects Douglas's concern to move beyond both "Lutheran" readings of Paul and the "New Perspective"

Foreword

on Paul (Michael Bird has helpfully labelled Douglas's work a "Post-New Perspective on Paul").

The length and complexity of *Deliverance* make it a formidable read! This collection of essays is designed in part to introduce the concerns of that book more accessibly. It is worth pointing out that Douglas has provided an overview of the argument of *Deliverance* in an article in *Expository Times* (Vol. 123 no. 8, pp. 382–93) and a summary of his take on Paul's theology in *Four Views on the Apostle Paul* (ed. Michael F. Bird, Zondervan, 2013).

In the preface, Chris Tilling, the editor of this volume, expresses various thanks. I would like to thank Chris himself not only for his work in editing the book but also for initiating the King's conference and thus setting in motion the whole endeavor. My role in the whole has been very minimal, but it has been a pleasure and privilege to be part of it.

Edward Adams