

Preface

THIS INAUGURAL VOLUME in the Contours of Pauline Theology series began as a set of conference papers presented at the Pauline Theology research group of the Institute for Biblical Research. During the group's 2017 and 2018 meetings, six leading Pauline theologians were invited to read papers on the theme of "sin and its remedy in Paul." In 2017, three papers were presented on Romans, and in 2018 one paper each was presented on 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. The aim of the two-year study was to seek to answer the following questions: How does Paul conceptualize sin? Does he primarily regard sin as disobedience, or as an enslaving power? If both, is there a model or perspective that best accounts for these multiple conceptualities? And what do the answers to these questions suggest about the christological and pneumatological remedies to the problem of sin as Paul conceives of them?

Both of the sessions were excellent, and we are grateful to all six of our presenters for their participation in the annual meetings, for expanding their original papers into chapter length studies, and for allowing us the privilege of publishing their essays together in this collection. Realizing, however, that a volume devoted only to four Pauline letters could hardly do justice to the topic under examination, we have chosen to supplement these initial studies on the *Hauptbriefe* with four additional chapters: an essay that targets the usage of sin language in extrabiblical Greco-Roman and Jewish literature, as well as essays on Colossians and Ephesians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and 1 Timothy, respectively. The result, we hope, is a volume that will both guide and stimulate students, teachers, and scholars to consider and appreciate more deeply the complexity of Paul's theology of sin and salvation.

It has been a pleasure to work with each of the contributors to this project, whose essays we genuinely appreciate. We also wish to thank our

families for their support, Holly Dunaway for her keen editorial eye and assistance with the indices, as well as Michael Thomson of Cascade Books for his interest in this project and in the new series. Finally, we dedicate this volume to Ben Blackwell, whose friendship during and since our post-graduate years at Durham University has been a constant source of joy. The relationships forged in the Bailey Room are among our most cherished takeaways from our time in Durham. Ben, we are thankful to have been fellow travelers with you on the Dunelm Road.

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