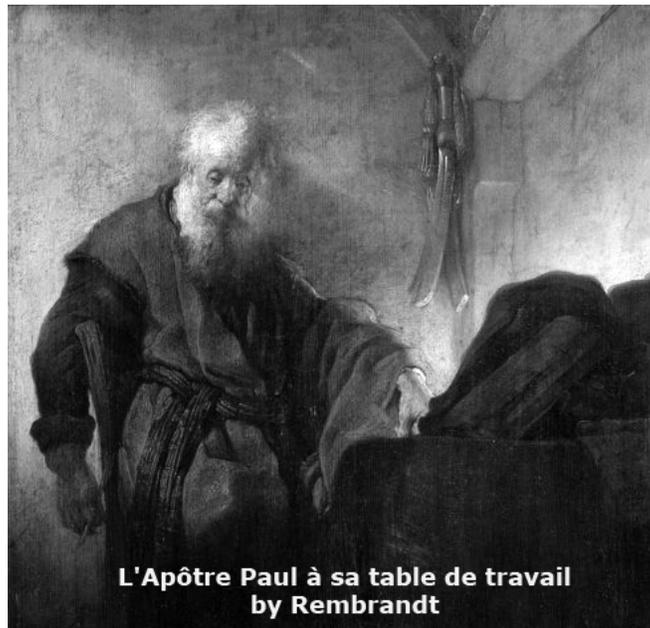


The Apostle Paul, *Servant of Christ*

An Overview Survey of the Contributions of this Christian Leader



by

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Preface:

For many years I have sought an opportunity to put into writing the insights gleaned from over half a century of study and reflection on the life and contributions of the apostle Paul. I was first introduced to the writings of the apostle in serious study as a beginning college student in 1960. Through a succession of university and seminary professors over the following fifteen years, the teachings of this great apostle were made increasingly clear to me. During my first year long sabbatical leave (1981-82) from my teaching duties at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, I had the privilege of probing the thoughts of the apostle much more deeply while serving as a visiting scholar in the Evangelische Fakultät of the university of Bonn in Germany. Professor Eric Graßer introduced me to facets of the study of Paul from a German Lutheran perspective and the role of Paul in European Protestant history. My fascination with this great apostle expanded greatly from this experience. In my teaching responsibilities to master's students at SWBTS, I offered several advanced Greek exegesis courses over the nearly twenty-five years of serving on the faculty there. Subsequently eleven years of teaching students at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina provided additional opportunity to offer upper level Greek exegesis courses from selected writings of Paul. Numerous advanced Greek study guides and theological journal articles on Paul have been published during that period reflecting insights on particular aspects of this man's writings in the New Testament. Countless sermons and numerous Bible conference studies from Paul's writings have been presented in churches on both sides of the Atlantic over these years, beginning with the very first sermon I ever preached in 1957 from Galatians 2:20. But until now, time and other limitations have prevented me from pulling these insights into a wholistic picture of the Apostle Paul in written expression. For this opportunity I am deeply grateful.

The study is presented not as a highly detailed study, nor as an overly technical study. Rather, the goal is to introduce serious Bible students to this first Christian century leader whose writings occupy almost half of the content of the New Testament. My hope and prayer is that you the reader may become interested in learning his insights into the Christian experience as I have been for many years. Thus this study will accomplish its mission as it becomes a launch pad into deeper study in the coming years in your own pilgrimage of faith.

Benedicat te Deus in hoc itinere literarum ab apostolo Paulo.

Que Dios los bendiga en este camino de aprendizaje a partir del Apóstol Pablo.

Möge Gott Sie segnen in dieser Reise des Lernens aus der Apostel Paulus.

May God bless you in this journey of learning from the Apostle Paul!

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Publication Information

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