PREFACE

This third volume in this series, Pauline Studies, is on Paul and his theology. It follows on from the series’ two previous volumes, The Pauline Canon, ed. Stanley E. Porter (PAST 1; Leiden: Brill, 2004), and Paul and his Opponents, ed. Stanley E. Porter (PAST 2; Leiden: Brill, 2005). The reception to the first two volumes of this projected five (or more) volume series has continued to be very encouraging, especially as more and more contributors are agreeing to contribute to future volumes. I again wish to thank those who have made use of the previous volumes, those who have given such favorable reviews to these volumes and especially those who have profitably used the volumes in their own research. Like its predecessors, this volume brings together a number of different papers by leading scholars in recent discussion of the topic of Paul and his theology. The balance of this volume is generally reflective of the tenor of current discussion of the topic of Paul and his theology—although readers will note that there is no contribution on the center of Paul’s theology (apart from my introduction), only one on the issue of Paul and the law, and two that address issues of trinitarian theology, among others. This volume also includes treatments of two significant interpreters of Paul—Melanchthon and Deissmann—and their contribution to understanding his theology. Subsequent volumes currently scheduled to appear are as follows:

Volume 4: Paul’s World
Volume 5: Paul: Jew, Greek and Roman

As I mentioned in previous volumes, I would like to invite any scholars interested in making contributions to one or more of these volumes to be in contact with me regarding submission. Contact information is provided below. The topics of the volumes are being defined and interpreted broadly, so that papers that deal, for example, with clearly related subjects, such as the Paul of the Letters and of Acts, Paul’s rhetoric, and various social issues, we hope will be able to find a home in these collections of papers. Papers for the fourth and fifth volumes are already being gathered for publication,
and they promise to continue the pattern already established in previous volumes of providing a range of interesting papers on a variety of topics important to Pauline studies. I look forward to producing these volumes in a timely manner to keep the series moving forward with one volume appearing each year. We are also assessing topics for future volumes, with two further sets of five volumes each under consideration. These volumes are designed to extend and focus discussion of various issues in Pauline studies. I am optimistic that scholarly and readerly interest in this series will encourage us to move forward. Suggestions for future volumes are welcome.

I would again like to thank all of the individual authors for their worthy contribution to this third volume of essays in the PAST series. There is again little overlap in the contributors from the first two volumes (besides the present editor, only Craig Evans has contributed before), but this is not intentional. Multiple submissions by scholars with wide-ranging interests are welcome and encouraged. As I have stated previously—and it is no less true for the repetition—many, if not most, scholars would not be able to do their work if it were not for their institutions that support them. I again wish, on the authors’ behalf, to thank their institutions for such tangible efforts, as well as the intangible encouragement and environments that enable such scholarship to take place. I would also like to thank the several people at Brill with whom I have worked over the years, including especially Louise Schouten on this project, who have continued to be an encouragement as this project not only took shape but has continued to develop and come to timely fruition. My sincere hope is that this volume will make a significant contribution to the topic of Paul’s theology.

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