

Paul and the Pauline Epistles

February 2023

These two lists are suggestions of books that might be of interest and help to those who attend the Crieff Virtual Vestry Discussion group, especially for those who lead the discussions on a regular basis. They have been selected from a variety of sources. Please consider buying at least one from each list for our regular weekly studies. Most, maybe all, are available from Amazon and/or Blackwells.

Our series on Acts and the Pauline Epistles will start on February 18th 2023 – so please order your copies well in advance.

Paul (in Acts) and the Pauline Epistles will occupy our time after about the middle of May.

Commentaries on Acts

***Acts. D.J. Williams. New International Biblical Commentary**

A standard mid-level verse-by-verse commentary with pages of additional notes.

Based on the NIV.

Recommended by Mike Lewis.

***The Acts of the Apostles. B.R. Gaventa. Abingdon N.T. Commentaries**

Gaventa's commentary is not as complicated as many commentaries, and it is suitable for pastors and informed non-experts. Her focus - these 'Acts' are actually the acts of God through the apostles - makes her commentary stand out among the others that are more interested in history. (TdB)

Recommended by Tom de Bruin.

***The Acts of the Apostles – Spreading the Word. L.R. Farley. Orthodox Bible Study Companion Series**

A useful paella-mix of the text of Acts interspersed with descriptive amplifications written “for the average layman, for your grandfather, banker, serving girl at McDonalds”. For those wanting a book which is both readable and informative yet not wanting a formal commentary.

Suggested by Mike Lewis

The Message of Acts. John Stott. Bible Speaks Today series

A typical John Stott commentary.

Available on loan from Mike to Crieff leaders.

Acts. R.W. Wall. In the New Interpreter's Bible – A commentary in Twelve Volumes. Volume 10: Acts, Romans 1 Corinthians.

A thorough and comprehensive 1000 page commentary for detailed academic study.

Available on loan from Mike Lewis to Crieff-based leaders.

Recommended:

Gaventa and/or Williams plus Farley

Books on the Life of Paul

Cambridge Companion to St Paul. J.D.G. Dunn (Editor). Cambridge University Press

A compilation by a variety of highly respected authors providing a very comprehensive and serious examination of Paul the person, his letters, his theology and legacy. Heavy going!

Navigating Paul – An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts. J.M. Bassler. Westminster John Knox Press

Serious theology. Chapters on Grace, Paul and the Jewish Law, Faith, “In Christ”, Righteousness of God, Who is Israel? And “The End”.

Available on loan from Mike to Crieff leaders.

Paul Through Mediterranean Eyes: Cultural Studies In 1 Corinthians. K.E. Bailey. SPCK

Cultural background to 1 Corinthians.

Companion volume to Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes as used occasionally in the “Life of Jesus” series.

The Astonishing and Daunting journeys of the Apostle Paul. T. Kloske. Xulon Press

An interestingly written “overview of Paul’s three missionary journeys, his journey to Rome and a detailed study of his farewell tour”. (From the contents page.)

Klose proposes a fourth missionary journey to Spain and seeks to provide evidence.

Includes photos and cultural information.

This would lighten the heaviness of some of Paul’s writings!

Paul – An Apostle’s Journey. D.A. Campbell. Eerdmans Publishing Co

One man’s researched ideas on Paul’s life, methodology and interaction with people on his journeys.

... and many more available on line.