

Book Reviews

Author: Tom Holland

Date: 2004

Title: *Contours of Pauline Theology: A Radical New Survey of the Influences on Paul's Biblical Writings*

Place of Publication and Publisher: Mentor

ISBN: 1857 924 69 X

hbk/pbk and number of pages: hbk; 392pp

Price: £13.99

Reviewer: Leslie Houlden of Temple Balsall, UK.

The author is on the staff of the Evangelical Theological College of Wales. His book is subtitled 'a radical new survey of the influences on Paul's biblical writings'. It is hard to be seriously 'new' in writing about Paul the apostle, and readers must judge how truly original this book is. The book focuses on the formative Jewish scriptural influences on Paul's thought, especially the Exodus tradition and the paschal experience, which are seen as key to his whole theology. In other words, Paul 'never left the religion of the Old Testament', or, in fact, the teaching of Jesus. The author argues that there is a single, homogeneous stream within the New Testament period (though not after it). The book is chiefly an exercise in exegetical and theological understanding of Paul. Nothing here about the now much-studied social dimension: no reference to Wayne Meeks or Dale Martin; nor for that matter, among current British scholars on these matters, Francis Watson and Morna Hooker (the latter gets a single reference). The scholars most referred to are N.T. Wright, J.D.G. Dunn, and E.P. Sanders. But the bibliography is formidable. The writing is plain and accessible and the case is made with vigour and attractive clarity.

Author: Paul P.J. Sheppy

Date: 2003

Title: *Death Liturgy and Ritual, Volume 1: A Pastoral and Liturgical Theology; Volume 2: Commentary on Liturgical Texts*

Place of Publication and Publisher: Aldershot, UK & Burlington, USA: Ashgate

hbk/pbk and number of pages: hbk; 208pp

ISBN: 075 463 8995

Price: £50.00

Reviewer: Canon Lawrence Mortimer, priest-in-charge of Claverdon, Preston Bagot and Wootton Wawen in the Diocese of Coventry, UK.

Death is no longer taboo. Perhaps the flowers outside Kensington Palace in 1997 marked a turning point. Drive more than fifty miles today and you are likely to pass a floral wayside shrine to some recent traffic accident