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Friendship and Benefaction in James

Alicia J. Batten

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Employing social description, social-scientific models, and rhetorical analysis, Alicia J. Batten argues that the Letter of James is conversant with the topic of friendship within Greek and Roman literature, as well as within various texts of early Christianity. She illustrates how James drew upon some of the language and concepts related to friendship with an intriguing density to advocate resistance to wealth, avoidance of rich patrons, and reliance upon God.

Features:

- Use of friendship, benefaction, and patronage as lenses through which James 1:2–18, 2:1–26, 3:13–4:10, and related texts can be viewed
- A strong case for how the letter appels to the language and ideas of friendship with regard to God's relationships with humans
- Exploration of the relationship between the book of James and the teachings of Jesus

Alicia J. Batten is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo, Canada. She serves on several academic editorial boards and is currently writing a commentary on the Letter of James for the Illuminations Commentary Series (Eerdmans).

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