# PAUL AND THE RESURRECTED BODY



### **EMORY STUDIES IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

Vernon K. Robbins, General Editor
David B. Gowler, General Editor
Bart B. Bruehler, Associate Editor
Robert H. von Thaden Jr., Associate Editor
Juan Hernández Jr.
Susan E. Hylen
Brigitte Kahl
Mikeal C. Parsons
Russell B. Sisson
Shively T. J. Smith
Elaine M. Wainwright



# PAUL AND THE RESURRECTED BODY Social Identity and Ethical Practice

Matt O'Reilly





#### **Atlanta**

#### Copyright © 2020 by Matt O'Reilly

Publication of this volume was made possible by the generous support of the Pierce Program in Religion of Oxford College of Emory University.

The editors of this series express their sincere gratitude to David E. Orton and Deo Publishing for publication of this series 2009–2013.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by means of any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the 1976 Copyright Act or in writing from the publisher. Requests for permission should be addressed in writing to the Rights and Permissions Office, SBL Press, 825 Houston Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30329 USA.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: O'Reilly, Matt, Dr., author.

Title: Paul and the resurrected body: social identity and ethical practice / Matt O'Reilly. Description: Atlanta: SBL Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index. Identifiers: LCCN 2019059624 (print) | LCCN 2019059625 (ebook) | ISBN 9781628372762

(paperback) | ISBN 9780884144410 (hardback) | ISBN 9780884144427 (ebook) Subjects: LCSH: Bible. Epistles of Paul—Socio-rhetorical criticism. | Resurrection—Biblical teaching. | Human body—Biblical teaching. | Identity (Psychology)—Biblical teaching

Classification: LCC BS2655.R35 O74 2020 (print) | LCC BS2655.R35 (ebook) | DDC

236/.8—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2019059624

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2019059625

Cover design is an adaptation by Bernard Madden of Rick A. Robbins, Mixed Media (19" x 24" pen and ink on paper, 1981). Cover design used by permission of Deo Publishing.

# Contents

Ac	knowledgments	vii
Ab	breviations	ix
1.	Questions, Context, and Method	1
	1.1. Speaking of Bodies	1
	1.2. The Body and the Future in the Greco-Roman World	4
	1.3. The Body in Pauline Scholarship	16
	1.4. The Body and the Future in Pauline Scholarship	24
	1.5. Methodological Considerations	30
	1.6. The Contribution of This Study	40
2.	Embracing Resurrection: The Corinthian Correspondence	43
	2.1. First Corinthians	43
	2.2. Second Corinthians	109
	2.3. Conclusion	127
3.	From Mortal Body to Redeemed Body: The Letter to	120
	the Romans	129
	3.1. Intragroup Conflict in Rome	130
	3.2. Romans as Deliberative Rhetoric	132
	3.3. Resurrection and the Rhetoric of Interrogation	134
	3.4. Resurrection, the Spirit, and the Hope of Creation	149
	3.5. Bodily Resurrection as Future Social Identity	157
	3.6. Table Fellowship as Bodily Practice	165
	3.7. Conclusion	169
4.	Resurrection or Destruction? The Letter to the Philippians	171
	4.1. The Rhetorical Situation in Philippi	171
	4.2. Rhetoric and Social Identity	174

4.3. The Deliberative Rhetoric of Philippians	175
4.4. Bodily Resurrection in Philippians	178
4.5. Future Social Identity and the Rhetoric of Contrast	183
4.6. Bodies, Identity, and the Rhetoric of Example	191
4.7. Conclusion	207
5. The Body and the Future in the Letters of Paul	209
5.1. Bodily Resurrection in Social Perspective	209
5.2. Resurrection and the Rhetoric of Reconciliation	212
5.3. Resurrection and the Suffering Body	213
5.4. The Body and the Question of Perseverance	214
5.5. Resurrection and Present Transformation	215
5.6. Conclusion	216
Bibliography	217
Ancient Sources Index	237
Modern Authors Index	247



## Acknowledgments

This book would not have been completed without contributions from a variety of people. First and foremost, I am unspeakably grateful to my wife, Naomi O'Reilly, for graciously encouraging and supporting me throughout the duration of this project. She self-sacrificially carried more than her share of family responsibilities during the many, many hours that I was engaged in research and writing. Without her steadfast encouragement and commitment, this book would not have reached publication. I dedicate it with love to her.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to Andrew T. Lincoln for his outstanding support of this project. He was always attentive both to the big picture and to the smallest detail. Without his guidance, this book would not have taken its present shape. I am likewise indebted to Ben Witherington for his support. His input was of inestimable value. He has been a mentor to me for more than a decade, and I cannot express the extent of my appreciation for the many kindnesses he has extended.

Philip Esler and Stephen Barton also gave the manuscript a thorough reading and offered incisive feedback that helped to strengthen it for publication. Though I do not know their names, I am indebted to the anonymous reviewers who read the manuscript and recommended it for publication. Their feedback was encouraging and, once again, served to buttress the overall argument. I offer my thanks to others who sacrificed time and energy to read portions of this study and provide useful comment. They include Gary Cockerill, Dean Flemming, and Carl Sweatman. I am also indebted to the members of the Saint Peter Fellowship of the Center for Pastor Theologians who read and offered constructive feedback on several chapters at a number of our fellowship gatherings. Others were kind to engage in conversation on various aspects of my research along the way including Adrian Long, Michael Halcomb, and Fredrick Long. Through the duration of this project, Jay Arnold encouraged me to pursue excellence in my research and challenged me to continually clarify and

refine my thinking and writing. For his friendship and encouragement, I am exceedingly grateful.

It would have been altogether impossible to conduct this study without the cutting-edge research support provided by the excellent staff of the Information Commons and the B. L. Fisher Library at Asbury Theological Seminary. They are to be commended. I am grateful to the many members of my family who offered their encouragement and support. I am also grateful to the people of the churches I served during the research and writing of this book for allowing me to devote necessary time to study while also serving as their pastor.

The team at SBL Press is to be commended for the professionalism with which they have executed the publication of this volume. In his role as series editor, Vernon Robbins has wisely guided me through the process of preparing the book for publication. Nicole L. Tilford lent her judicious editorial eye to the manuscript and advanced it toward publication with grace and efficiency. Heather McMurray has been diligent and professional in her work on sales and marketing. I am deeply grateful to all of them. The shortcomings that remain are, of course, my responsibility.



#### **Abbreviations**

#### **Primary Sources**

1 En.2 Bar.3 Bar.3 Baruch

Abr. Philo, De Abrahamo

A.J. Josephus, Antiquitates judaicae

Apoc. Mos. Apocalypse of Moses Apoc. Sedr. Apocalypse of Sedrach b. Babylonian Talmud

B.J. Josephus, Bellum judaicum

Cael. Aristotle, De caelo

Con. Demosthenes, *In Cononem* 

Crat. Plato, Cratulus
De an. Aristotle, De anima
De or. Cicero, De oratore

Det. Philo, Quod deterius potiori insidari soleat

Diatr. Epictetus, Diatribai (Dissertationes)

*Ebr.* Philo, *De ebrietate* 

Ep. Demosthenes, Epistulae; Seneca (the Younger), Epistu-

lae morales

Fug. Philo, De fuga et inventione

Gen. Rab. Genesis Rabbah Gorg. Plato, Gorgias

Her. Philo, Quis rerum divinarum heres sit

Inst. Quintilian, Institutio oratoria
Inv. Cicero, De invention rhetorica

Jub. Jubilees

Men.
Migr.
Philo, De migratione Abrahami
Nat.
Pliny the Elder, Naturalis historia

Nat. d. Cicero, De natura deorum [Neaer.] Demosthenes, [In Neaeram]

Od. Homer, Odyssea

Opif. Philo, De opificio mundi

Orat. Dio Chrysostom, De virtue (Or. 8)

Part. or. Cicero, Partitiones oratoriae

Plato, Phaedo Phaed. Phaedr. Plato, Phaedrus Prog. Progymnasmata Ps.-Phoc. Pseudo-Phocylides Pss. Sol. Psalms of Solomon Cicero, De republica Rep. Resp. Plato, Respublica Rhet. Aristotle, Rhetorica Rhet. Her. Rhetorica ad Herennium

Rom. Plutarch, Romulus

Sanh. Sanhedrin

Sen. Cicero, De senectute

Spec. Philo, De specialibus legibus
T. Ab. Testament of Abraham
T. Benj. Testament of Benjamin
T. Jud. Testament of Judah
T. Levi Testament of Levi
T. Mos. Testament of Moses
Tg. Ps.-J. Targum Pseudo-Jonathan

Vit. phil. Diogenes Laertius, Vitae philosophorum

Secondary Sources

AB Anchor Bible

AGJU Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und

des Urchristentums

ANTC Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
A(Y)BRL Anchor (Yale) Bible Reference Library

BECNT Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
BETL Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovanien-

sium

BFT Biblical Foundations in Theology
BHT Beiträge zur historischen Theologie

Bib Biblica

Abbreviations xi

BNTC Black's New Testament Commentaries

BT The Bible Translator

CBQ Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CurBR Currents in Biblical Research

ConBNT Coniectanea Biblica: New Testament Series

ECL Early Christianity and Its Literature

EJSP European Journal of Social Psychology

EKKNT Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Tes-

tament

ERSP European Review of Social Psychology

ESV English Standard Version

FRLANT Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und

**Neuen Testaments** 

GBS Guides to Biblical Scholarship

GNS Good News Studies

GTA Göttinger theologischer Arbeiten HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible

HSS Harvard Semitic Studies

HTA Historisch Theologische Auslegung

HTR Harvard Theological Review

ICC International Critical Commentary

*Int Interpretation* 

JAAR Journal of the American Academy of Religion

*JBL Journal of Biblical Literature* 

JETS Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament

JSNTSup Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supple-

ment Series

ISPL Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters

KEK Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Tes-

tament (Meyer-Kommentar)

KJV King James Version

KNT Kommentar zum Neuen Testament

LCL Loeb Classical Library

LEC Library of Early Christianity

LNTS Library of New Testament Studies

NAC
NASB
New American Commentary
New American Standard Bible

NBBC New Beacon Bible Commentary

xii Abbreviations

NCB New Century Bible

NewDocs Horsley, G. H. R., et al., eds. New Documents Illustrat-

ing Early Christianity. North Ryde, NSW: The Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie

University, 1981-.

NIB Keck, Leander E. *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Nashville:

Abingdon, 1994-2004.

NICNT New International Commentary on the New Testa-

ment

NIGTC New International Greek Testament Commentary

NIV New International Version

NIVAC New International Version Application Commentary

NovT Novum Testamentum

NovTSup Supplements to Novum Testamentum

NRSV New Revised Standard Version NTAbh Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen

NTL New Testament Library

NTOA Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus

NTS New Testament Studies

OTP Charlesworth, James H., ed. The Old Testament Pseu-

dipigrapha. 2 vols. ABRL. New York: Doubleday,

1983-1985.

RSV Revised Standard Version SBT Studies in Biblical Theology

SNTSMS Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series

SP Sacra Pagina

TGl Theologie und Glaube

Tusc. Cicero, Tusculanae disputationes

TynBul Tyndale Bulletin

WBC Word Biblical Commentary

WUNT Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testa-

ment

ZBK Zürcher Bibelkommentare

ZNW Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und

die Kunde der älteren Kirche