

2015 EGLBS Plenary Speakers

March 12, 2015

Mohican Lodge, Perrysville, OH

Presidential Address - 5:30 pm

When Apostolic Egos Collide: Paul, Peter and Barnabas in Galatians 2

Michael Cosby, Ph.D.



In Galatians 2:11–14, Paul calls Peter a self-condemned hypocrite for withdrawing from table fellowship with Gentile Christians in Antioch. And scholars consistently endorse Paul’s version of the confrontation. But does Paul’s inflammatory rhetoric distort the nature of the conflict? Why did Barnabas, Paul’s mentor and co-worker, side with Peter? Was Barnabas really turning his back on what he and Paul had accomplished and “not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel”? Or, during the Galatians 2 showdown, was Barnabas responding sensitively and constructively to disturbing news from James in Jerusalem—news that placed Peter in a real bind?

Michael Cosby, Professor of New Testament at Messiah College, journeyed to Cyprus on a Fulbright fellowship to conduct research on Barnabas. He recently completed his book manuscript, *Barnabas: How a Peacemaker became a Warrior Saint*, which chronicles how politics and conquest transformed beliefs about Barnabas on the island of Cyprus.

Guest Speaker

March 12, 2015, 8 pm

Inventing Martyrdom and Suicide in Early Christianity

Dr. Candida Moss, University of Notre Dame



Although people in the modern world assume that Christians oppose suicide but endorse martyrdom, people in the ancient world did not clearly distinguish between these two forms of death. This paper discusses how and for what reasons Christians came to distinguish between martyrdom and suicide and the inconsistent way that they subsequently enforced prohibitions against suicide.

Candida Moss specializes in Biblical studies and early Christian history, she holds an undergraduate degree in Theology from the University of Oxford, a Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Yale Divinity School, and a doctorate in Religious Studies from Yale University. She has published four books and over twenty-five articles and essays on various aspects of Biblical and early Christian literature, history, and thought. An award-winning author, her first book, *The Other Christs: Imitating Jesus in Ancient Christian Ideologies of Martyrdom* (Oxford, 2010) was awarded the 2011 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise and she has been the recipient of grants and awards from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the John Templeton Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She currently serves as co-chair of the Healthcare and Disability in the Ancient Near East section of the international and national meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature, co-Chair of the "Inventing Christianity" consultation of the Society of Biblical Literature, and on the steering committee of the "Apostolic Fathers" consultation of the International meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. She has consulted for, appeared in, and hosted documentaries for the National Geographic Channel, the History Channel, and the Discovery Channel and has lectured nationally and internationally at Yale, Duke, Emory, Columbia, University of Chicago, University of Oxford, University of Durham, Von Humboldt University in Berlin, to name a few. She is currently working on a monograph on the resurrection of the body tentatively entitled "Heavenly Bodies: Resurrecting Perfection in Early Christianity" for Yale University Press and a commentary on Second Century Martyrdom Accounts for the Hermeneia Commentary series.