Colossians and Philemon

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Main content

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Marianne Meye Thompson brings skill, scholarship, and a keen hermeneutical appreciation to this commentary and theological study of two New Testament writings, the Letter to the Colossians and the Letter to Philemon. Her book can be divided into two parts, each of which follows the same pattern. After an introduction to the respective letter under consideration, Thompson offers a commentary on the letter, summarizing current scholarship and presenting her own insights. Each part concludes with a chapter that looks at the theological horizon that the letter might suggest today. This chapter consists of three sections: the theology of the letter, a study of how this theology relates to Paul's overall theological vision, and finally the contribution which the letter can make towards a constructive theology. It is this final chapter on each letter that I found most synthetic, relevant and, at times, moving.

Thompson presumes Paul's authorship of both letters. While acknowledging the current scholarly debate about the authorship of Colossians, she affirms that...

Overall, Colossians and Philemon is filled with illuminating and illustrative material. For preachers, Bird's work cannot replace the technical commentaries based on the original language, but his commentary would make an excellent biblical-theological supplement. For Sunday School teachers, campus ministers, and other lay leaders, Colossians and Philemon would make a great tool for understanding the Christ-exalting message of Colossians. The Epistle of Paul to Philemon, known simply as Philemon, is one of the books of the Christian New Testament. It is a prison letter, co-authored by Paul the Apostle with Timothy, to Philemon, a leader in the...
Colossian church. It deals with the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. Paul does not identify himself as an apostle with authority, but as "a prisoner of Jesus Christ", calling Timothy "our brother", and addressing Philemon as "fellow labourer" and "brother." (Philemon 1:1; 1:7; 1:20) Introduction to Colossians and Philemon. Back to Table of Contents Back to Table of Contents. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The letters to the Colossians and to Philemon are believed to have been written by Paul from prison sometime circa 60 to 62. At that time, Nero was the cruel and insane emperor of the Roman Empire who could ignore the claims of Paul's Roman citizenship.