RECONSTRUCTING HONOR IN ROMAN PHILIPPI

This book examines Paul’s letter to the Philippians against the social background of the colony at Philippi. After an extensive survey of Roman social values, Professor Hellerman argues that the *cursus honorum*, the formalized sequence of public offices that marked out the prescribed social pilgrimage for aspiring senatorial aristocrats in Rome (and which was replicated in miniature in municipalities and in voluntary associations), forms the background against which Paul has framed his picture of Jesus in the great Christ hymn in Philippians 2. In marked contrast to the values of the dominant culture, Paul portrays Jesus descending what the author describes as a *cursus pudorum* (“course of ignominies”). The passage has thus been intentionally framed to subvert Roman *cursus* ideology and, by extension, to redefine the manner in which honor and power were to be utilized among the Christians at Philippi.

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Reconstructing Honor in Roman Philippi

_Carmen Christi as Cursus Pudorum_

JOSEPH H. HELLERMAN
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ABBREVIATIONS

ABD  Anchor Bible Dictionary (ed. D. N. Freedman)
ACCS Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
AJP American Journal of Philology
ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt
 (ed. H. Temporini)
AP American Psychologist
AS Ancient Society
ASR American Sociological Review
BBR Bulletin for Biblical Research
BCH Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique
BDAG Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich, Greek–English Lexicon
BDF Blass, Debrunner, and Funk, A Greek Grammar of the New Testament
Bib Biblica
BJRL Bulletin of the John Rylands Library
BTB Biblical Theology Bulletin
CBQ Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CJ The Classical Journal
CQ The Classical Quarterly
FIRA Fontes Iuris Romani Antejustiniani (ed. S. Riccobono)
HTR Harvard Theological Review
IDB Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible (ed. G. A. Buttrick)
JBL Journal of Biblical Literature
JRS Journal of Roman Studies
JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JSOT Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JTS Journal of Theological Studies
NKZ Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift
NovT Novum Testamentum
NTS New Testament Studies
RB Revue biblique
List of abbreviations

**SE** Studia Evangelica
**TDNT** Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (ed. G. Kittel)
**TrinJ** Trinity Journal
**WTJ** Westminster Theological Journal
**ZN** Zeitschrift für Numismatik
**ZNW** Zeitschrift für die neuestamentliche Wissenschaft
**ZPE** Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik
**ZTK** Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche

Titles of ancient sources are abbreviated according to the conventions of the Oxford Classical Dictionary.