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John D. Moores

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This study combines an analysis of the argumentative complexities of Romans 1–8 with the presentation of modern theories of how meaning arises and functions. These theories (especially as represented by the semiotics of Umberto Eco) shed important light on two central questions raised by Paul's method: why does he reason so persistently about matters which depend ultimately on supernatural enlightenment, and why, where he does, are his arguments often so unclear and so hard to reduce to logical consistency? To both questions new answers emerge.

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Wrestling with rationality in Paul

Romans 1–8 in a new perspective

JOHN D. MOORES

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To the memory of my mother and father

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Nothing can credibly be proposed as the language of faith
which cannot honestly be defended by the person who
speaks.

Harmony comes into being through love mediated by
language.

G. Ebeling

Pauline theology . . . circles round in ever new attempts to
bring out the saving significance of the Cross. It is a theol-
ogy of the Word because it is only through the word of the
Cross that Jesus's death remains present, remains grace,
remains promise and covenant; and it is the work of the one
who is risen to let this word manifest itself in preaching, in
the sacraments and in the Christian life.

E. Käsemann

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ABBREVIATIONS

- ALBO *Analecta Lovaniensia Biblica et Orientalia*
 AnBib *Analecta Biblica*
 AP *Aesthetica Preprint*
 ATRSS *Anglican Theological Review Supplementary Series*
 AV *Authorised Version of the Bible* (1611)
 BA W. Bauer: *Griechisch-deutsches Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments und der frühchristlichen Literatur*, ed. K. and B. Aland, 6th edn, 1988 (Berlin and NY, de Gruyter)
 BAGD W. Bauer: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT and Other Early Christian Literature*, ET of 4th German edn by W. F. Arndt and F. W. Gingrich, 2nd edn revised by F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker, 1979 (Chicago UP)
 BDF F. Blass, A. Debrunner and R. W. Funk, *A Greek Grammar of the NT*, 1961 (Chicago UP)
 BETH *Beiträge zur evangelischen Theologie*
Bibl Biblica
 BNTC *Black's NT Commentaries*
BS Bibliotheca Sacra
BTFT Bijdragen, Tijdschrift voor Filosofie en Theologie
BZ Biblische Zeitschrift
 BZNW *Beihefte zur ZNW*
CBQ Catholic Biblical Quarterly
 CR *Commentary on Romans*
 CU *Communication Unit*
 DBI *A Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*, ed. R. J. Coggins and J. L. Houlden, 1990 (London, SCM)
 EB *The Expositor's Bible*
 EKKNT *Evangelisch-Katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament*

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- ET English translation
 ETL *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*
 EvTh *Evangelische Theologie*
 ExT *Expository Times*
 FRLANT Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
 FS Festschrift
 GTA Göttingen Theologische Arbeiten
 HBT *Horizons in Biblical Theology*
 HCHC Hermeneia – A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible
 HNT Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
 HTKNT Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
 HTR *Harvard Theological Review*
 ICC International Critical Commentary
 Int *Interpretation*
 JBL *Journal of Biblical Literature*
 JSNT *Journal for the Study of the NT*
 JSNT SS *Journal for the Study of the NT, Supplement Series*
 JTS *Journal of Theological Studies*
 LB *Linguistica Biblica*
 LN J. P. Louw and E. A. Nida: *Greek–English Lexicon of the NT, Based on Semantic Domains*, 2nd edn, 1989 (NY, UBS)
 LSJ H. W. Liddell and R. Scott: *A Greek–English Lexicon* (revised and augmented by H. Stuart Jones and R. McKenzie), 9th edn, 1940 (Oxford, Clarendon)
 LT Lieux Théologiques
 LXX Septuagint
 MKEK Meyers kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament
 MM J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan: *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*, 1930 (London, Hodder)
 MNTC Moffatt NT Commentary
 MT Masoretic Text
 NEB New English Bible, 1970 (Oxford UP)
 Neot *Neotestamentica*
 NICNT New International Commentary on the NT
 NIGTC New International Greek Testament Commentary
 NovT *Novum Testamentum*

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- NovTS Supplements to *Novum Testamentum*
 NTD Das Neue Testament Deutsch
 NTS *New Testament Studies*
 PLJP E. P. Sanders, *Paul, the Law and the Jewish People*, 1985 (London, SCM)
 PPJ E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*, 1977 (London, SCM)
 Presb *Presbyterion*
 RB *Revue Biblique*
 Rhet *Rhetorica*
 RSV Revised Standard Version of the Bible, NT 2nd edn 1971, OT 1952
 SB H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck: *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrash*, 1926–28 (Munich, Beck'sche)
 SBLDS Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
 SE *Studia Evangelica*
 Sem *Semeia*
 SJT *Scottish Journal of Theology*
 SNTSMS Society for NT Studies Monograph Series
 SNTU *Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt*
 ST *Studia Theologica*
 StB Stuttgarter Bibelstudien
 TDNT *Theological Dictionary of the NT*, ed. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (ET), 1964–76 (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans)
 Theol *Theology*
 TNTC Tyndale NT Commentary
 TPINTC Trinity Press International NT Commentaries
 TQ *Theologische Quartalschrift*
 TS U. Eco, *A Theory of Semiotics*, 1976 (Bloomington, Indiana UP)
 TSG U. Eco, *Trattato di semiotica generale*, 10th edn 1987 (Milan, Bompiani)
 TZ *Theologische Zeitschrift*
 UCr H. Cremer: *Biblico-theological Lexicon of NT Greek*, ET from German edn of W. Urwick, 4th edn 1895 (Edinburgh, Clark)
 WBC Word Biblical Commentary
 WGTh *Greek-English Lexicon of the NT*, ET (revised and enlarged) by J. H. Thayer of Grimm's Wilke's *Clavis Novi Testamenti*, 4th edn 1901 (Edinburgh, Clark)

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WMANT Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und
 Neuen Testament

WUNT Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen
 Testament

ZNW Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

ZTK Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche