

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Essays in New Testament Interpretation

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. MOULE

*Emeritus Lady Margaret's Professor of
Divinity in the University of Cambridge*

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

London New York New Rochelle

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation
C. F. D. Moule
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521237833

This collection © Cambridge University Press 1982

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1982
This digitally printed version 2008

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 81-10144

ISBN 978-0-521-23783-3 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-09025-4 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>page</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>		xi
<i>Abbreviations</i>		xiii
Jesus in early Christian interpretation		1
1 Fulfilment-words in the New Testament: use and abuse		3
2 Jesus in New Testament kerygma		37
3 The use of parables and sayings as illustrative material in early Christian catechesis		50
4 The Ascension - Acts i.9		54
Studies in the Gospels		65
5 St Matthew: some neglected features		67
6 Neglected features in the problem of 'the Son of Man'		75
7 The individualism of the Fourth Gospel		91
Two studies in the Epistles		111
8 The problem of the Pastoral Epistles: a reappraisal		113
9 The nature and purpose of I Peter		133
Two linguistic studies		147
10 Death 'to sin', 'to law' and 'to the world': a note on certain datives		149
11 Peculiarities in the language of II Corinthians		158
Studies exegetical, doctrinal and ethical		163
12 The influence of circumstances on the use of christological terms		165
13 The influence of circumstances on the use of eschatological terms		184

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

14	St Paul and 'dualism': the Pauline conception of resurrection	200
15	A reconsideration of the context of <i>maranatha</i>	222
16	II Cor. iii.18b, <i>καθάπερ ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος</i>	227
17	Punishment and retribution: an attempt to delimit their scope in New Testament thought	235
18	The theology of forgiveness	250
19	Obligation in the ethic of Paul	261
20	'... As we forgive ...': a note on the distinction between deserts and capacity in the understanding of forgiveness	278
21	The sacrifice of the People of God	287
	<i>Index</i>	299

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Foreword

The suggestion that a selection of my published essays be collected into a single volume came from a friend, who must remain anonymous, for he must not be implicated in their imperfections; but I offer him my thanks for his encouraging estimate of them. It was on his initiative that the Cambridge University Press, to whom also I owe thanks, approached me with the proposal – a proposal too flattering to be easily resisted. The choice of papers for the collection is largely that of the same friend. A writer is in a bad position to judge of the respective merits of his own pieces so I have accepted his guidance. At the Press, I owe special thanks to my friend Dr R. L. Williams for devoting much precious time to checking references and supervising the preparation of materials for printing, and to Mrs A. W. Field, to whom fell the exacting task of bringing some sort of consistency into articles printed in a wide diversity of styles.

Especially in New Testament scholarship work moves fast and fashions change still faster. Is it desirable to reprint studies related to the debates of former years? Ought they not at least to be revised and re-directed? That is a fair question. Indeed, I have recently been struggling to revise and rewrite an old book with just such an end in view; and, in the present collection, I have added a few notes at several points and modified a paragraph in one essay where a friend convinces me that the evidence at that point would not bear the weight I was laying on it, although I believe that the thesis as a whole still stands without it.

But although if I were writing the essays today I should of course have to take issue with much work that has appeared since they were written, I venture to think that, in the main, their arguments still hold. And although I have admitted to being flattered by the Press's proposal, there are, I hope, more worthy reasons to justify their republication.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Foreword*

Some of the essays concern principles that are basic to New Testament research. Some touch on matters of interpretation that are perennially important. Above all, I dare to hope that among them will be found examples, on however small a scale, of the kind of exegesis that J. D. Smart desiderates in his book *The Past, Present and Future of Biblical Theology* (Philadelphia, 1979). Analysing the causes of the widespread failure of biblical scholarship to speak effectively to contemporary needs, he finds at the heart of them an evasion of the problem 'caused by the presence in Scripture of historical phenomena which are comprehensible and meaningful only on the basis of an interacting of God and man in history' (pp. 93 ff.). The longer I study Christian origins the more I am convinced that what may be called the ordinary, rational, 'secular' study of the documents is the right starting point. They ought to be analysed critically like any other works of antiquity. But, if so, the student is quickly led to a point - namely, the genesis of the conviction that Jesus had gone through death to eternal life - at which he is nonplussed as an ordinary, rational, 'secular' student of history. Within the terms of his discipline he is unable to give a convincing account of this juncture. It is true that many historians refuse to admit this. But I can only say that their rationalizing does seem to me to fail to offer a convincing account. Here is a historical phenomenon - the coming of the disciples of Jesus to this strange belief - which, in Smart's phrase, is 'comprehensible and meaningful' only on the assumption that there is more in this event than the ordinary canons of historical research can embrace - the assumption, in this case, that the aliveness of Jesus corresponded to reality and was a divine revelation.

If the assumption is sound, then there will begin to be some two-way traffic. On returning within the limits of his discipline, the historian will find that, in the last analysis, no part of history is satisfactorily described except as an interacting of God and man. All history turns out to be, in a measure, woven of a lateral warp and a vertical weft, and to be incomplete until the 'vertical' dimension is recognized. This means - and this is part of J. D. Smart's thesis - that no biblical exegesis is satisfactory which does not link theological meaning with the purely historical findings. Human events turn out to be adequately describable only in terms of the biblical conviction that the living God reveals himself to men. It is the task of the interpreter of Scripture to hold the two together. Some of the following essays are only peripheral to this central task. But that the task is central is the conviction within which all of them were written, and some of them directly exemplify the linking of the purely historical with the theological.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Foreword*

In any case, I do not wish to withdraw the main contention of any of them. I believe that a study of 'fulfilment words' (essay 1) is a clue to far-reaching conclusions about the relation of the New to the Old Testament - indeed about the Person of Christ. I am more than ever convinced (essays 12 and 13) that the themes of St Paul's epistles are largely conditioned by the particular battle he is fighting in each of them, and that it is a mistake to imagine that, for example, Galatians must have been written at more or less the same period as Romans merely because their themes are similar. I still believe that the proposals in essay 5 about the character of St Matthew's Gospel are plausible, and (essay 7) that the Johannine eschatology is in part to be explained by the individualism of the Gospel.

In spite of influential books by F. M. Young and R. J. Daly,¹ I am still prepared (essay 21) to argue that, in the Christian dispensation, sacrifice is replaced by sacrament, and that there is no essential element in the Christian Gospel that necessitates the language of sacrifice in the strict, cultic sense. Of course sacrifice is a metaphor used in the New Testament and hallowed by long usage in the Christian Church, and of course it is one way of expressing the cost which is at the heart of atonement. But I still ask whether there is any distinctive and essential part of the Christian good news of salvation that cannot be expressed without this strictly cultic term. Similarly (essays 16 and 17) I find myself still calling in question the idea of retribution in any fully Christian account of reconciliation.

I remain convinced (essays 2 and 3) that there is no evidence that St Paul was not interested in the deeds and words of the historical Jesus. This widespread assumption can hardly be challenged too often, and Christological judgements of great importance are involved. I still believe (essay 6) that that tell-tale definite article in '*the* Son of Man' has not been given its proper weight in hundreds of pages published on the phrase, and that attempts to refute my arguments have missed the point.

I have yet to see any evidence that in II Cor. v. 3 (essay 14), *εἰ γε καί*, as contrasted with simple *εἰ γε*, can mean 'assuming that' (in a tone of affirmation) rather than 'if indeed' (an expression of doubt). Oddly enough, in the theological interpretation of that entire context, much depends on this and on the enigmatic *κατεργασάμενος* of verse 5 in the same passage.

1 F. M. Young, *Sacrifice and the Death of Christ* (London, 1975). R. J. Daly, *The Origins of the Christian Doctrine of Sacrifice* (London, 1978).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Foreword*

These and other matters, all of which, however small in themselves, concern decisions of real importance in Christology, soteriology, or ethics, I am glad to be allowed to present again, more accessibly, perhaps, than before. Whatever the inadequacies of the essays, the questions behind them are as urgent as ever, and if there are readers who will actively respond, whether with refutation or with support, then progress will be made.

July 1980

C. F. D. Moule

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

The author and publisher are grateful to the following for permission to reproduce essays first published by them.

The Oxford University Press for ‘The Use of Parables and Sayings as Illustrative Material in Early Christian Catechesis’, *The Journal of Theological Studies* n.s. 3 (1952), 75ff.; ‘The Influence of Circumstances on the Use of Christological Terms’, *The Journal of Theological Studies* n.s. 10 (1959), 247ff.; ‘The Influence of Circumstances on the Use of Eschatological Terms’, *The Journal of Theological Studies* n.s. 15 (1964), 1ff.; “. . . As we forgive . . .”: a Note on the Distinction between Deserts and Capacity in the Understanding of Forgiveness’, E. Bammel, C. K. Barrett, W. D. Davies, ed., *Donum Gentilicium*, Festschrift for D. Daube (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978), pp. 68ff. © Oxford University Press 1952, 1959, 1964, 1978.

The John Rylands Library for ‘The Problem of the Pastoral Epistles: A Reappraisal’, *The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 47 (1965), 430ff. © The John Rylands Library 1965.

T. and T. Clark (Publishers), Edinburgh for ‘The Ascension – Acts 1:9’, *The Expository Times* 68 (1956/7), 205ff. © T. & T. Clark (Publishers) 1956.

Theologischer Verlag Rolf Brockhaus, Wuppertal for ‘Jesus in New Testament Kerygma’, O. Bocher und K. Haacker Hrsg., *Verborum Veritas*, Festschrift for G. Stählin (Wuppertal: Brockhaus 1970), pp. 15ff. © Theologischer Verlag Rolf Brockhaus 1970.

Akademie-Verlag GmbH, Berlin for ‘St Matthew: Some Neglected Features’, *Studia Evangelica II = Texte und Untersuchungen* 87 (1964), 91ff. © Akademie-Verlag GmbH 1964.

Verlag Herder KG, Freiburg im Breisgau for ‘Neglected Features in the Problem of “The Son of Man”’, J. Gnillka Hrsg., *Neues Testament und Kirche*, Festschrift for R. Schnackenburg (Freiburg/Basel/Wien: Herder 1974), pp. 413ff. © Verlag Herder KG 1974.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgements*

Theologischer Verlag, Zürich for '2 Corinthians 3:18b, *καθάπερ ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος*', H. Baltensweiler und B. Reicke Hrsgg., *Neues Testament und Geschichte*, Festschrift for O. Cullmann (Zürich: Theologischer Verlag/Tübingen: Mohr 1972), pp. 231ff. © Theologischer Verlag 1972.

Editions J. Duculot SA for 'Death "to Sin", "to Law", and "to the World": A Note on Certain Datives', A. Descamps et A. de Halleux dir., *Mélanges Bibliques*, Festschrift B. Rigaux (Gembloux: Duculot 1970), pp. 367ff. © Editions J. Duculot SA 1970.

E. J. Brill, Leiden for 'Peculiarities in the Language of 2 Corinthians', D. A. Brownell, W. C. Weinrich, J. Brownell edd., Festschrift for B. Reicke (Leiden: Brill forthcoming) and 'The Individualism of the Fourth Gospel', *Novum Testamentum* 5 (1962), 171ff. © E. J. Brill 1962.

C. W. K. Glerup, Lund & Munksgaard for 'Punishment and Retribution: An Attempt to Delimit their Scope in New Testament Thought', *Svensk Exegetisk Årsbok* 30 (1965), 21ff. © C. W. K. Glerup, Lund & Munksgaard 1965.

'The Theology of Forgiveness' first appeared in N. Autton ed., *From Fear to Faith* (London: SPCK, 1971), pp. 61ff; and 'The Sacrifice of the People of God' in D. M. Paton ed., *The Parish Communion Today* (London: SPCK, 1962), pp. 78ff. © C. F. D. Moule 1971, 1962. 'Fulfillment Words in the New Testament: Use and Abuse' first appeared in *New Testament Studies* 14 (1967/8), 293ff.; 'The Nature and Purpose of I Peter' in *New Testament Studies* 3 (1956), 1ff.; 'St Paul and "Dualism": The Pauline Conception of Resurrection' in *New Testament Studies* 12 (1965/6), 106ff.; 'A Reconsideration of the Context of *Maranatha*' in *New Testament Studies* 6 (1959), 307ff.; and 'Obligation in the Ethic of Paul' in W. R. Farmer, C. F. D. Moule, R. R. Niebuhr edd., *Christian History and Interpretation*, Festschrift for John Knox (Cambridge: University Press, 1967), pp. 389ff. © Cambridge University Press 1967, 1956, 1965, 1959, 1967.

Abbreviations

<i>Acta Sem. Neot. Upsal.</i>	<i>Acta seminarii neotestamentici Upsalien- sis</i>
<i>Amer. J. Arch.</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>Bibl. Theol. Lovan.</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium</i>
<i>B.J.R.L.</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>C.B.Q.</i>	<i>The Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>C.I.G.</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum graecarum</i>
<i>Class. Philol.</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>E.T.</i>	English translation
<i>Exp. T.</i>	<i>The Expository Times</i>
<i>F.R.L.A.N.T.</i>	<i>Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments</i>
<i>H.T.R.</i>	<i>The Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>I.C.C.</i>	<i>International Critical Commentary</i>
<i>J.B.L.</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>J.J.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>J.T.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>L. and S.</i>	Liddell and Scott, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i>
<i>M.T.</i>	Masoretic text
<i>Nov. Test.</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>N.T.D.</i>	<i>Das Neue Testament Deutsch</i>
<i>N.T.S.</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>P.G.</i>	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus, series graeca</i> , edited by J. P. Migne
<i>R.B.</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>R.H.P.R.</i>	<i>Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie reli- gieuses</i>
<i>S.-B.</i>	<i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09025-4 - Essays in New Testament Interpretation

C. F. D. Moule

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

	<i>Talmud und Midrasch</i> , edited by H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck (5 volumes)
<i>S.J.T.</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>S.N.T.S.</i>	<i>Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas</i>
<i>Th.Bl.</i>	<i>Theologische Blätter</i>
<i>T.L.Z.</i>	<i>Theologische Literatur-Zeitung</i>
<i>T.U.</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur</i>
<i>T.W.N.T.</i>	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> , edited by G. Kittel and G. Friedrich
<i>V.C.</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>Vetus Test.</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
<i>W.M.A.N.T.</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament</i>
<i>Z.K.G.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>
<i>Z.N.T.W.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>Z.T.K.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>