

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

This book breaks new ground in offering an exposition of the theological message of the shorter Pauline letters. Karl P. Donfried expounds the theology of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, examining the cultural setting of these letters and the particular milieu in which their distinctive themes took shape. He shows that the notion of election is a key theme in the Thessalonian correspondence, while both letters have important things to say to people in our own day about Christ, about forgiveness, and about a sanctifying God who pours out his Spirit. I. Howard Marshall's study of Philippians brings out especially the understanding of the theological basis of the Christian life which underlies the letter, while his discussion of Philemon emphasises how the main theme of the letter is the relation between the gospel and Christian ethics; the implications of Paul's teaching on slavery are considered in a manner which goes much further than the surface of the text might imply.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

General Editor: James D. G. Dunn,  
Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, University of Durham

The theology of the shorter Pauline letters

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

This series provides a programmatic survey of the individual writings of the New Testament. It aims to remedy the deficiency of available published material, which has tended to concentrate on historical, textual, grammatical, and literary issues at the expense of the theology, or to lose distinctive emphases of individual writings in systematised studies of 'The Theology of Paul' and the like. New Testament specialists here write at greater length than is usually possible in the introductions to commentaries or as part of other New Testament theologies, and explore the theological themes and issues of their chosen books without being tied to a commentary format, or to a thematic structure drawn from elsewhere. When complete, the series will cover all the New Testament writings, and will thus provide an attractive, and timely, range of texts around which courses can be developed.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# THE THEOLOGY OF THE SHORTER PAULINE LETTERS

**KARL P. DONFRIED**

*Professor of Religion and Biblical Literature, Smith College*

**I. HOWARD MARSHALL**

*Professor of New Testament Exegesis, University of Aberdeen*



Cambridge University Press  
 978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters  
 Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

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

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](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521367318](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521367318)

© Cambridge University Press 1993

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 1993  
 Reprinted 1997, 1999

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

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*  
 Donfried, Karl P.

The theology of the shorter Pauline letters / Karl P. Donfried,  
 I. Howard Marshall.

p. cm. – (New Testament theology)

ISBN 0 521 36491–4 (hardback). ISBN 0–521–36731–X (paperback)

1. Bible. N. T. Thessalonians Theology. 2. Bible. N. T.  
 Philippians Theology. 3. Bible. N. T. Philemon Theology.

I. Marshall, I. Howard. II. Title. III. Series.

BS2725.5.D65 1993

227\*.806 – dc20 92–41218 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-36491-1 Hardback  
 ISBN 978-0-521-36731-8 Paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2010

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or  
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in  
 this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,  
 or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel  
 timetables and other factual information given in this work are correct at  
 the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee  
 the accuracy of such information thereafter.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>Editor's preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
<b>THE THEOLOGY OF 1 THESSALONIANS</b>	
<i>Karl P. Donfried</i>	i
<i>Note on the biblical translations</i>	2
1 The setting of 1 Thessalonians	3
2 The theology of 1 Thessalonians	28
3 1 Thessalonians, the Pauline corpus and Acts	64
4 The significance of 1 Thessalonians for today	73
<b>THE THEOLOGY OF 2 THESSALONIANS</b>	
<i>Karl P. Donfried</i>	81
5 The setting of 2 Thessalonians	83
6 The theology of 2 Thessalonians	90
7 2 Thessalonians and the New Testament	105
8 The significance of 2 Thessalonians for today	108
<b>THE THEOLOGY OF PHILIPPIANS</b>	
<i>I. Howard Marshall</i>	115
<i>Author's note</i>	116
9 Exploring the building site	117
10 Laying the foundation	127
11 Building the walls	138
12 The shape of the Church	149

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

*Contents*

13	Philippians and its architect	162
14	A building that still stands	167
THE THEOLOGY OF PHILEMON		
<i>I. Howard Marshall</i>		
15	The gospel and slavery	175
		177
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	192
	<i>Indices (Thessalonians)</i>	
	<i>Index of subjects</i>	196
	<i>Index of modern authors</i>	198
	<i>Index of texts</i>	199
	<i>Indices (Philippians, Philemon)</i>	
	<i>Index of subjects</i>	204
	<i>Index of modern authors</i>	205
	<i>Index of texts</i>	206

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## *Editor's preface*

Although the New Testament is usually taught within Departments or Schools or Faculties of Theology/Divinity/Religion, theological study of the individual New Testament writings is often minimal or at best patchy. The reasons for this are not hard to discern.

For one thing, the traditional style of studying a New Testament document is by means of straight exegesis, often verse by verse. Theological concerns jostle with interesting historical, textual, grammatical and literary issues, often at the cost of the theological. Such exegesis is usually very time-consuming, so that only one or two key writings can be treated in any depth within a crowded three-year syllabus.

For another, there is a marked lack of suitable textbooks round which courses could be developed. Commentaries are likely to lose theological comment within a mass of other detail in the same way as exegetical lectures. The section on the theology of a document in the Introduction to a commentary is often very brief and may do little more than pick out elements within the writing under a sequence of headings drawn from systematic theology. Excursuses usually deal with only one or two selected topics. Likewise larger works on New Testament Theology usually treat Paul's letters as a whole and, having devoted the great bulk of their space to Jesus, Paul and John, can spare only a few pages for others.

In consequence, there is little incentive on the part of teacher or student to engage with a particular New Testament document, and students have to be content with a general overview, at best complemented by in-depth study of (parts of)



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

*Editor's preface*

two or three New Testament writings. A serious corollary to this is the degree to which students are thereby incapacitated in the task of integrating their New Testament study with the rest of their Theology or Religion courses, since often they are capable only of drawing on the general overview or on a sequence of particular verses treated atomistically. The growing importance of a literary-critical approach to individual documents simply highlights the present deficiencies even more. Having been given little experience in handling individual New Testament writings as such at a theological level, most students are very ill-prepared to develop a properly integrated literary and theological response to particular texts. Ordinands too need more help than they currently receive from textbooks, so that their preaching from particular passages may be better informed theologically.

There is need therefore for a series to bridge the gap between too brief an introduction and too full a commentary where theological discussion is lost among too many other concerns. It is our aim to provide such a series. That is, a series where New Testament specialists are able to write at a greater length on the theology of individual writings than is usually possible in the introductions to commentaries or as part of New Testament Theologies, and to explore the theological themes and issues of these writings without being tied to a commentary format or to a thematic structure provided from elsewhere. The volumes seek both to describe each document's theology, and to engage theologically with it, noting also its canonical context and any specific influence it may have had on the history of Christian faith and life. They are directed at those who already have one or two years of full-time New Testament and theological study behind them.

*University of Durham*

JAMES D. G. DUNN

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

<i>AnBib</i>	<i>Analecta biblica</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	H. Temporini and W. Haase, <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i> (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1972– )
<i>BBR</i>	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
<i>BETL</i>	<i>Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum Lovaniensium</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
<i>BNTC</i>	<i>Black's New Testament Commentaries</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>EKKNT</i>	<i>Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>EtB</i>	<i>Études bibliques</i>
<i>EThSt</i>	<i>Erfurter theologische Studien</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>GCS</i>	<i>Griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte</i>
<i>HAW</i>	<i>Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaft</i>
<i>HNT</i>	<i>Handbuch zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>HTKNT</i>	<i>Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUTh</i>	<i>Hermeneutische Untersuchungen zur Theologie</i>
<i>IDB</i>	<i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>JSTNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSTNSup</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series</i>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-36731-8 - The Theology of the Shorter Pauline Letters

Karl P. Donfried and I. Howard Marshall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

*Abbreviations*

<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
MeyerK	<i>Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament</i>
MM	J. H. Moulton and W. Milligan, <i>The Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament</i> (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1914–30)
<i>NCeB</i>	<i>New Century Bible</i>
<i>NICNT</i>	<i>New International Commentary on the New Testament</i>
<i>NIGTC</i>	<i>New International Greek Testament Commentary</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>RTR</i>	<i>Reformed Theological Review</i>
<i>StNT</i>	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, eds, <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , trans. G. W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–76)
<i>TUn.F</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur, neue Folge</i>
UBS	K. Aland et al., <i>The Greek New Testament</i> (London: United Bible Societies, 1975 <sup>3</sup> )
<i>USQR</i>	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
<i>WBC</i>	<i>World Biblical Commentary</i>
<i>WUNT</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>