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0521496403 - Power Through Weakness: Paul's Understanding of the Christian Ministry in 2 Corinthians - Timothy B. Savage

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Dr Savage seeks to understand the apostle Paul's apparently contradictory description of his ministry in 2 Corinthians as one in which power is manifested through weakness: 'When I am weak, then I am strong!' This paradox becomes intelligible when it is understood that Paul's critics were influenced by a perspective which was the exact opposite of his: they imbibed the self-exalting outlook of their contemporary world, while he embraced the self-emptying gospel of Christ. Drawing from archaeological data on first-century Corinth, this study is unique in establishing both the secular underpinnings of Paul's paradoxical language and the devastating critique which that language offers on the general outlook of the first century. Paul emerges as a radical foil to the spirit of the age.

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Power through weakness

Paul's understanding of the Christian
ministry in 2 Corinthians

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PREFACE

This monograph began its life as a doctoral thesis presented to and accepted by the University of Cambridge in 1987. Since then it has been revised and updated extensively.

Many people have cast a critical eye over this work at various stages of its development and their suggestions and encouragement have been invaluable. I am particularly grateful to my supervisor in Cambridge, the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, Morna D. Hooker, who enlarged my understanding of the cross of Christ in Paul and helped me to see its implications for the Christian ministry. I am also grateful to Mr A. G. Woodhead, a classical archaeologist and life-fellow of Corpus Christi College, who carefully supervised my work on first-century Corinth. My original readers, Dr Douglas R. de Lacey and the Rev. J. P. M. Sweet, sharpened many loose arguments and caught several errant details, as did Professor David Hellholm and Dr Margaret E. Thrall, who read the manuscript in preparation for publication. I wish especially to thank Dr Thrall who agreed to include this work in the SNTS monograph series. Several friends have provided important moral support: Dr Roy D. Clements; Professor Murray J. Harris; Professor Harold W. Hoehner; and the late Dr Colin J. Hemer. Mr Steven R. Laube compiled the indexes with admirable patience and accuracy. To each person, my debt is immense.

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Finally, I am grateful to my wife, Lesli, who unfailingly and

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without complaint put the demands of my research before her own interests. Without her support, the monograph would never have seen the light of day. For the abiding joy of her companionship I offer my deepest and humble gratitude.

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(and dates of ancient authors)

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
Ael.	Aelianus, c. AD 170–235
<i>AJA</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
Alciphron	second century AD
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> , eds. H. Temporini and W. Haase (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1972–)
App.	Appian, c. AD 95–165
Apul.	Apuleius, b. c. AD 123
<i>Arch</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>
Aret.	Areteus, second century AD
Aristid.	Aelius Aristides, c. AD 117–180
Arist.	Aristotle, 384–322 BC
Artem.	Artemidorus Daldianus, second century AD
<i>AS</i>	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>
ASCSA	American School of Classical Studies in Athens
Ath.	Athenaeus, second century AD
August.	Augustine, AD 354–430
<i>BA</i>	<i>The Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BAG	Bauer, W. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature.</i> , translated and adapted by W. F. Arndt and F. W. Gingrich; 2nd ed. revised and augmented by F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker (see bibliog.)
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de correspondance hellénique</i>
BDF	Blass, F. and Debrunner, A. <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian</i>

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	<i>Literature</i> , translated and revised by R. W. Funk (see bibliog.)
<i>BH</i>	<i>Buried History</i>
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
B. Mus. Inscr.	British Museum. <i>Ancient Greek Inscriptions in the British Museum</i> , eds. C. T. Newton, E. L. Hicks <i>et al.</i> (see bibliog.)
<i>CAH</i>	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i>
Calabi-Limentani	Calabi-Limentani, <i>I. Epigrafia Latina</i> (see bibliog.)
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
Cic.	Cicero, 106–43 BC
CIG	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum</i>
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i>
<i>CN</i>	<i>Coniectanea neotestamentica</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
Crinagorus	b. c. 70 BC
D. C.	Dio Cassius, second century AD
D. Chr.	Dio Chrysostom, AD 40 – c. 120
D. S.	Diodorus Siculus, first century BC
<i>Dig.</i>	<i>Digesta Iustiniani Augusti</i> , second century AD
Edwards	Edwards, K. M. <i>Corinth: Coins 1896–1929</i> (see bibliog.)
Epict.	Epictetus, c. AD 50–120
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
Eusebius	AD 260–340
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
Gal.	Galenus, second century AD
Gell.	Gellius, Aulus, second century AD
<i>Hell</i>	<i>Hellenica</i>
<i>Hesp</i>	<i>Hesperia</i>
Hicks	Hicks, E. L. <i>Greek Inscriptions from the British Museum</i> (see bibliog.)
<i>Hist</i>	<i>Historia</i>
Hor.	Horace, b. 65 BC
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>

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IGRR	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes</i>
ILS	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>ITQ</i>	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>JAAR</i>	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
<i>JAC</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</i>
Jastrow	Jastrow, M. <i>A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature</i> (see bibliog.)
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JCE</i>	<i>Journal of Christian Education</i>
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
Jos.	Josephus, AD 37/38 – c. 100
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JKI</i>	<i>Jahrbuch des Kaiserlich deutschen archäologischen Instituts</i>
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JRH</i>	<i>Journal of Religious History</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
Just.	Justinianus, sixth century AD
Juv.	Juvenal, first century AD
Kaibel	Kaibel, G. <i>Epigrammata Graeca</i> (see bibliog.)
Kent	Kent, J. H. <i>Corinth: The Inscriptions 1926–1950</i> (see bibliog.)
Lane	Lane, E. <i>Corpus Monumentorum Religionis dei Menis</i> (see bibliog.)
LCL	Loeb Classical Library (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., and Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press)
Le Bas-Wadd.	Le Bas, P. and Waddington, W. H. <i>Voyage archéologique en Grèce et en Asie Mineure</i> (see bibliog.)
Livy	59 BC – AD 17 or 64 BC – AD 12
LSJ	Liddell, H. G. and Scott, R. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , revised and augmented by H. S. Jones, with the assistance of R. McKenzie (see bibliog.)
Luc.	Lucan, AD 39 – 65

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Lucian	c. AD 125–180
LXX	The Septuagint
Mart.	Martial, c. AD 40–104
Meritt	Meritt, B. D. <i>Corinth: Greek Inscriptions 1896–1927</i> (see bibliog.)
Moretti	Moretti, L. <i>Inscrizioni Agonistiche Greche</i> (see bibliog.)
MT	The Massoretic Text
NDIEC	<i>New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity</i>
NT	New Testament
NT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OCDD	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> , eds. N. G. L. Hammond and H. H. Scullard, 2nd ed. (see bibliog.)
Origen	AD 185/186–254/255
OT	Old Testament
Ovid	43 BC – AD 17
Paus.	Pausanias, second century AD
Petron.	Petronius, first century AD
P. Fay.	Grenfell, B. P., Hunt, A. S. and Hogarth, D. G. <i>Fayûm Towns and their Papyri</i> (see bibliog.)
P. Flor.	<i>Papiri Fiorentini, documenti pubblici e privati dell'età romana e bizantina</i> . Eds. G. Vitelli and D. Comparetti (see bibliog.)
PGM	<i>Papyri Graecae Magicae</i> , ed. K. Preisendanz (see bibliog.)
Philo	c. 30 BC – AD 45
Philostr.	Philostratus, second century AD
<i>PhilW</i>	<i>Philologische Wochenschrift</i>
Plato	c. 429 – 346 BC
Pliny the Elder	AD 23/24–79
Pliny the Younger	c. AD 61–112
Plut.	Plutarch, c. AD 46 – c. 120
<i>PLJP</i>	<i>Paul, the Law, and the Jewish People</i> . E. P. Sanders (see bibliog.)
P. Lond.	<i>Greek Papyri in the British Museum</i> , eds. F. G. Kenyon and H. I. Bell (see bibliog.)
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
P. Par.	Brunet de Presle, W. <i>Notices et extraits des</i>

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	<i>papyrus grecs du musée du Louvre et de la bibliothèque impériale</i> (see bibliog.)
P. Oxy.	<i>Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> , eds. B. P. Grenfell, A. S. Hunt <i>et al.</i> (see bibliog.)
PPJ	<i>Paul and Palestinian Judaism</i> . E. P. Sanders (see bibliog.)
PW, PWSup	<i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft, and supplementary volumes</i> , ed. G. Wissowa (Stuttgart: Metzler, 1894–)
Quint.	Quintilian, b. between AD 30 and 35 – c. 100
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i> , ed. T. Klauser (Leipzig: Hiersemann, 1941–)
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RE	<i>Revue Épigraphique</i>
REG	<i>Revue des Études grecques</i>
RestQ	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
RevPhil	<i>Revue de Philologie</i>
RevQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RevScRel	<i>Revue des Sciences Religieuses</i>
RGG	<i>Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i>
RHE	<i>Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique</i>
RS	<i>Religious Studies</i>
RSR	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
Sen.	Seneca, b. between 4 BC and AD 1–65
S. E.	Sextus Empiricus, second century AD
SEÅ	<i>Svensk exegetisk årsbok</i>
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
SG	<i>Studium Generale</i>
SIFC	<i>Studi italiani di filologia classica</i>
SIG ³	<i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , 3rd ed. (see bibliog.)
SNTU	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt</i>
SO	<i>Symbolae osloenses</i>
Stat.	Statius, c. AD 45–96
Str-B	Strack, H. L. and Billerbeck, P. <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , 6 vols. (München: Oskar Beck, 1922–56)
Str.	Strabo, 64/63 BC – AD 21/22
Suet.	Suetonius Tranquillus, c. AD 69 – 115
Tac.	Tacitus, c. AD 56 – c. 115

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Tat.	Tatianus, second century AD
TB	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TNIDNTT	<i>The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i> , ed. C. Brown, 3 vols. (Exeter: The Paternoster Press, 1975–78)
TQ	<i>Theologische Quartalschrift</i>
Trypho	first century BC
TS	<i>Theological Studies</i>
TSK	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
TWNT	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> , eds. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, 10 vols. (Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 1933–78)
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
Vett. Val.	Vettius Valens, second century AD
Vidman	Vidman, L. <i>Sylloge inscriptionum religionis Isiacae et Serapiacae</i> (see bibliog.)
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
West	West, A. B. <i>Corinth: Latin Inscriptions 1896–1927</i> (see bibliog.)
WZKM	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
YCS	<i>Yale Classical Studies</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>

The method of citation

Abbreviations of primary sources follow established usage: for classical literature see LSJ and *OCD*, for Jewish material see *JBL* 95 (1976) 335–38 and for Philo and Josephus see LCL. Commentaries on 2 Corinthians are cited by author only. All other books and articles are cited by author and short title.