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0521572207 - Paul's Gift from Philippi: Conventions of Gift-Exchange and Christian Giving

G. W. Peterman

Frontmatter

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This book is a study of Paul's response to the financial help he received from the church in Philippi whilst he was a prisoner in Rome. Philippians 4.10–20 has always puzzled commentators because of its seemingly strained and tortured mode of thanks. Word studies, psychological studies and literary studies have all failed to provide insight into the text, which is unique in the Pauline corpus. Using contemporary sources Dr Peterman re-examines this difficult passage in the light of Greek and Roman practices and language regarding the exchange of gifts and favours in society. He concludes that 'gift exchange' or 'social reciprocity', with its expectations and obligations, permeated every level of society in Paul's day, and that Paul's seemingly ungracious response was an attempt to create a new, Christian attitude to gifts and to giving.

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# Paul's gift from Philippi

Conventions of gift-exchange and Christian giving

**G. W. PETERMAN**

*Pastor, Osceola Evangelical Free Church,  
Osceola, Iowa*



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## PREFACE

This book is a revision of a doctoral dissertation submitted to the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College London in 1992. The work was completed under the careful supervision of Professor Graham N. Stanton with further comments given by the examiners Dr Judith Lieu and Dr Loveday Alexander.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- ANRW* *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*, ed. Wolfgang Haase, Berlin: Walter de Gruyter
- AusBR* *Australian Biblical Review*
- BDF* F. Blass and A. Debrunner, *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, translated and revised by R. W. Funk (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961).
- Bib* *Biblica*
- BJRL* *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*
- BSac* *Bibliotheca Sacra*
- BTB* *Biblical Theology Bulletin*
- BZ* *Biblische Zeitschrift*
- CBQ* *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*
- CPR* *Corpus Papyrorum Raineri, Griechische Texte IV–V*, ed. H. Zilliacus et al., Wien: Hollinek, 1979–83
- CQ* *Classical Quarterly*
- CurTM* *Currents in Theology and Mission*
- EvQ* *Evangelical Quarterly*
- EvT* *Evangelische Theologie*
- ExpTim* *Expository Times*
- Fs.* Festschrift
- HTR* *Harvard Theological Review*
- IE* *Die Inschriften von Ephesos*, ed. H. Wankel et al., Bonn: Rudolf Habelt, 1979–
- Int* *Interpretation*
- IVP* *Inter-Varsity Press*
- JAC* *Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum*
- JBL* *Journal of Biblical Literature*
- JETS* *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
- JJS* *Journal of Jewish Studies*



*List of abbreviations*

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<i>JRH</i>	<i>Journal of Religious History</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>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
NEB	New English Bible
NIV	New International Version
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NIC	New International Commentary
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>OGIS</i>	<i>Orientalis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i> , 2 vols., Lipsiae: Apud S. Hirzel, 1903
<i>RAC</i>	<i>Reallexikon für die Antike und Christentum</i> , ed. T. Klauser, et al., Stuttgart: Anton Hiersemann, 1941–
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
<i>ResQ</i>	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>SB</i>	<i>Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Aegypten</i> , ed. F. Preisigke et al., 1913–
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> , ed. J. Hondius et al., 1923–
<i>SIG<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , ed. W. Dittenberger, 2nd edn, 3 vols., 1898–1901
<i>TBT</i>	<i>The Bible Today</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , 10 vols., ed. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, trans. G. W. Bromiley, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–76
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>