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0521631173 - Rhetoric and Galatians: Assessing an Approach to Paul's Epistle

Philip H. Kern

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This monograph challenges the increasingly accepted notion that Galatians is either a sample of classical rhetoric or should be interpreted in light of Graeco-Roman rhetorical handbooks. It demonstrates that the handbooks of Aristotle, Cicero and other such writers, discuss a form of oratory which was limited with respect to subject, venue and style of communication, and that Galatians falls outside such boundaries. The inapplicability of ancient canons of rhetoric is reinforced by a detailed comparison of Galatians with the handbooks, a survey of patristic attitudes towards Paul's communicative technique, and interaction with twentieth-century discussions of the nature of New Testament Greek. Dr Kern concludes that rhetorical handbooks were never a tool of literary criticism and that they cannot assist the search for a distinctly Pauline rhetoric. Thus this study has implications not only for Galatians but also for other New Testament epistles.

PHILIP H. KERN is Lecturer in New Testament at Moore Theological College, Sydney.

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PREFACE

I set out for Sheffield in late summer of 1990 to do an exegetical study of Galatians, especially 2.15–21. It became apparent, however, that much ground-clearing work was required before exegesis could begin. In the end, and because of the skilful prodding and questioning of my supervisor, Dr Loveday Alexander, these preliminary matters became the thesis, and the exegesis still lies just beyond the horizon. I thank Dr Alexander for broadening my perspective and introducing me to a world about which I knew little.

There are others without whom this work would have been impossible. Friends at Tyndale House who have encouraged and provoked me include Gerald Peterman, Andrew Warren (who constantly pointed out my abuse of the English language, and occasionally assisted with German too), Peter Bolt and Bruce and Lyn Winter. The church family at Lansdowne Chapel, Sheffield, made our two years there wonderful. Thanks also for warm friendship at Wauwatosa and Norwood. Stanley Porter, Philip Satterthwaite and Janet Fairweather of the Classics Faculty at Cambridge have interacted with the content of the book, been fine friends and fountains of information. Thanks go to Jack Fish and David MacLeod for drawing me to Pauline studies, and to Scot McKnight, Doug Moo and D. A. Carson for endeavouring to elevate me to the next level. The careful, critical reading offered by my examiners, Andrew Lincoln and Ian McDonald, has been much appreciated, as has the help of librarians at the universities of Sheffield and Cambridge, Trinity International University (Deerfield), Northwestern (Evanston), Macquarie (Sydney) and Tyndale House. Special thanks to Andrew Clarke for help both in the library and over tea – and again to Bruce Winter for too many things to mention.

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Grant, and was much facilitated by opportunities afforded at ‘the House’. My thanks go to them for their assistance. The project would have been impossible without the support of my family, especially my wife to whom I dedicate this book.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations have been largely restricted to works directly related to biblical studies and follow the *NTS* (38.1, Jan. 1992) conventions. For papyri see E. G. Turner, *Greek Papyri: An Introduction*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 156–71. The following is a supplement.

<i>ANF</i>	<i>Ante-Nicene Fathers</i> , ed. Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i> , ed. H. Temporini and W. Haase, Berlin: De Gruyter, 1972–92.
BAGD	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> , 4th edn., ed. W. Bauer, W. Arndt, T. Gingrich, and P. Danker, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum Iovaniensium
<i>DDC</i>	<i>De Doctrina Christiana</i>
<i>EB</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i>
ET	English Translation
<i>JAC</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTS	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplements
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTS	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplements
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
<i>LCM</i>	<i>Liverpool Classical Monthly</i>
LSJ	<i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> . Liddell, Scott, Jones
LXX	Septuagint

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NABPRDS	National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion Dissertation Series
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NPNF</i>	<i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , ed. Philip Schaff and Henry Wace, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991
<i>OCD</i> ²	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> , ed. N. G. L. Hammond and H. H. Scullard, Oxford: Clarendon Press, ² 1970.
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestinean Exploration Quarterly</i>
PG	Patrologiae cursus completus, ed. Jacques-Paul Migne, Series Graeca
PL	Patrologiae cursus completus, ed. Jacques-Paul Migne, Series Latina
repr.	reprint
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series