

Cambridge University Press
0521640032 - Purpose and Cause in Pauline Exegesis: Romans 1.16-4.25 and a
New Approach to the Letters
Wendy Dabourne
Frontmatter
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Three factors prompt this re-examination of the underlying questions that shape mainstream exegesis of Paul's letters. Hermeneutical studies have destabilized assumptions about the nature of meaning in texts; the letters are usually characterized as pastoral but explicated as expressions of Paul's thought; and the impact of E. P. Sanders' work on Paul has sharpened exegetical problems in Romans 1.16–4.25. The outcome is a two-step method of exegesis that considers a letter first in the light of the author's purpose in creating it and second as evidence for the patterns of thought from which it sprang. The passage appears as pastoral preaching, helping the Romans to deal with the implications of the fact that the God of Israel is now accepting believing Gentiles on the same basis as believing Jews. Justification by grace through faith emerges as the theological understanding of God's action in Christ that grounds the pastoral speech.

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PREFACE

This book is one outcome of many years' work, and it is a joy to acknowledge the contributions of a wide circle of teachers, colleagues, students and friends. In particular, Dr John Ziesler, Rev. Toska Williams, Rev. Dr Gordon Watson, Rev. Dr Robin Boyd, Prof. Colin Gunton and the unknown SNTS referee read the entire typescript at various stages of its development and offered encouragement and helpful comments. Special contributions have been made by Mr Seán Jackson, Dr Neil Williams, Ms Wendy Butterworth, the Community at Oxley House and a generous group of friends who checked my typing.

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I wish to thank SNTSMS editors Dr Margaret Thrall and Professor Richard Bauckham for their work, and staff of Cambridge University Press for their expertise and helpfulness.

ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
AnBib	Analecta Biblica
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i>
BAGD	W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker, <i>Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>
BDF	F. Blass, A. Debrunner and R. Funk, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament</i>
BFT	Biblical Foundations in Theology
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
EBib	Etudes bibliques
EKKNT	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FFNT	Foundations and Facets: New Testament
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GNS	Good News Studies
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IB</i>	<i>Interpreter's Bible</i>
<i>IBS</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IDB</i>	G. A. Buttrick (ed.), <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
<i>IDBSup</i>	Supplementary volume to <i>IDB</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>

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List of abbreviations

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<i>JBC</i>	R. E. Brown <i>et al.</i> (eds.), <i>The Jerome Biblical Commentary</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament – Supplement Series
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament – Supplement Series
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LEC	Library of Early Christianity
MNTC	Moffat New Testament Commentary
NCB	New Century Bible
<i>Neot</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum, Supplements
NTD	Das Neue Testament Deutsch
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RNT	Regensburger Neues Testament
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBLDS	SBL Dissertation Series
SBL SBS	SBL Sources for Biblical Study
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SD	Studies and Documents
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTW	Studies of the New Testament and its World
<i>SO</i>	<i>Symbolae Osloenses</i>
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (eds.), <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
<i>TLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche