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0521849098 - Reconstructing Honor in Roman Philippi: Carmen Christi as Cursus Pudorum

Joseph H. Hellerman

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RECONSTRUCTING HONOR IN ROMAN PHILIPPI

This book examines Paul's letter to the Philippians against the social background of the colony at Philippi. After an extensive survey of Roman social values, Professor Hellerman argues that the *cursus honorum*, the formalized sequence of public offices that marked out the prescribed social pilgrimage for aspiring senatorial aristocrats in Rome (and which was replicated in miniature in municipalities and in voluntary associations), forms the background against which Paul has framed his picture of Jesus in the great Christ hymn in Philippians 2. In marked contrast to the values of the dominant culture, Paul portrays Jesus descending what the author describes as a *cursus pudorum* ("course of ignominies"). The passage has thus been intentionally framed to subvert Roman *cursus* ideology and, by extension, to redefine the manner in which honor and power were to be utilized among the Christians at Philippi.

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABD</i>	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> (ed. D. N. Freedman)
<i>ACCS</i>	Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> (ed. H. Temporini)
<i>AP</i>	<i>American Psychologist</i>
<i>AS</i>	<i>Ancient Society</i>
<i>ASR</i>	<i>American Sociological Review</i>
<i>BBR</i>	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique</i>
<i>BDAG</i>	Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich, <i>Greek–English Lexicon</i>
<i>BDF</i>	Blass, Debrunner, and Funk, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament</i>
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CJ</i>	<i>The Classical Journal</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>The Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>FIRA</i>	<i>Fontes Iuris Romani Antejustiniani</i> (ed. S. Riccobono)
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IDB</i>	<i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> (ed. G. A. Buttrick)
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</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>
<i>NKZ</i>	<i>Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>

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SE Studia Evangelica

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (ed. G. Kittel)

TrinJ Trinity Journal

WTJ Westminster Theological Journal

ZN Zeitschrift für Numismatik

ZNW Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

ZPE Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik

ZTK Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche

Titles of ancient sources are abbreviated according to the conventions of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.