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978-1-107-08848-1 - Paul's Political Strategy in 1 Corinthians 1–4: Constitution and Covenant: Volume 163

Bradley J. Bitner

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PAUL'S POLITICAL STRATEGY IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1–4

Constitution and Covenant

Volume 163

This volume examines 1 Corinthians 1–4 within first-century politics, demonstrating the significance of Corinth's constitution to the interpretation of Paul's letter. Bradley J. Bitner shows that Paul carefully considered the Roman colonial context of Corinth, which underlay numerous ecclesial conflicts. Roman politics, however, cannot account for the entire shape of Paul's response. Bridging the Hellenism-Judaism divide that has characterized much of Pauline scholarship, Bitner argues that Paul also appropriated Jewish biblical notions of covenant. Epigraphical and papyrological evidence indicates that his chosen content and manner are best understood with reference to an ecclesial *politeia* informed by a distinctively Christ-centered political theology. This emerges as a "politics of thanksgiving" in 1 Corinthians 1:4–9 and as a "politics of construction" in 3:5–4:5, where Paul redirects gratitude and glory to God in Christ. This innovative account of Paul's political theology offers fresh insight into his pastoral strategy among nascent Gentile-Jewish assemblies.

BRADLEY J. BITNER is Tutor in New Testament and Greek at Oak Hill Theological College in London. He is the coeditor, with James R. Harrison, of *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity*, Vol. 11 (forthcoming).

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xii Acknowledgments

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations of ancient literary sources conform to conventions in *The SBL Handbook of Style* (P. H. Alexander et al. [eds.]; Peabody, MA: 1999) or *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (S. Hornblower and A. J. S. Spawforth [eds.]; 4th ed.). Unless otherwise noted, editions and translations of Greek and Latin authors are from the Loeb Classical Library. Inscriptions are abbreviated, when possible, according to *Guide de l'épigraphiste* (F. Bérard [ed.], 2010) or to G. H. R. Horsley and J. A. L. Lee, "A Preliminary Checklist of Abbreviations of Greek Epigraphic Volumes," *Epigraphica* 66 (1994): 129–70. Papyri are cited according to J. F. Oates et al. (eds.), *Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca, and Tablets Web Edition* (<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/texts/clist.html>).

ABSA	<i>The Annual of the British School at Athens</i>
AE	<i>L'Année Épigraphique</i>
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
Amandry	Amandry, M., <i>Le monnayage des duovirs corinthiens</i> . Paris, 1988
BAGD	Bauer, W., Arndt, W. F., Gingrich, F. W., Danker, F. W. (eds.), <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 2nd rev. ed. Chicago, 1979
BDAG	Bauer, W., Danker, F. W., Arndt, W. F., Gingrich, F. W. (eds.), <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago, 2000
BDF	Blass, F., Debrunner, A., Funk, R. W. (eds.), <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . Chicago, 1961
BICSSup	Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London Supplement

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<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CIG</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum graecarum</i>
<i>CIJ</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum Judaicarum</i>
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum latinarum</i>
<i>Corinth I.3</i>	Scranton, R. L., <i>Corinth, Volume I, Part III: Monuments in the Lower Agora and North of the Archaic Temple</i> . Princeton, 1951
<i>Corinth I.5</i>	Weinberg, S. S., <i>Corinth, Volume I, Part V: The Southeast Building, the Twin Basilicas, the Mosaic House</i> . Princeton, 1960
<i>Corinth IX.3</i>	Sturgeon, M. C., <i>Corinth, Volume IX, Part 3: Sculpture, the Assemblage from the Theater</i> . Princeton, 2004
<i>Corinth XVI</i>	Scranton, R. L., <i>Corinth, Volume XVI: Mediaeval Architecture</i> . Princeton, 1957
<i>Corinth XX</i>	Williams II, C. K., Bookidis, N. (eds.), <i>Corinth, the Centenary: 1896–1996, Volume XX</i> . Princeton, 2003
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum</i>
<i>DE</i>	Ruggiero, E. de (ed.), <i>Dizionario epigrafico di antichità romane</i> . Roma, 1895–1997
<i>Dig.</i>	Mommsen, Th., Krüger, P., Watson, A. (eds.), <i>Digesta. The Digest of Justinian</i> . Philadelphia, 1985
<i>FIRA III</i>	Riccobono, S. (ed.), <i>Fontes Iuris Romani Antejustiniani, vol. 3</i> , 2nd ed. Florence, 1943
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
<i>IGR</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes</i>
<i>IJO</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis</i>
<i>Inst. Iust.</i>	Thomas, J. A. C. <i>Institutiones. The Institutes of Justinian</i> . Cape Town, 1975
Iversen	Iversen, P., <i>Corinth, Volume VIII, Part IV: The Inscriptions</i> . Forthcoming
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JRA</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Archaeology</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
Kent	Kent, J. H., <i>Corinth, Volume VIII, Part III: The Inscriptions 1926–1950</i> . Princeton, 1966
Lampe	Lampe, G. W. H., <i>A Patristic Greek Lexicon</i> . Oxford, 1961

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<i>lex Irn.</i>	González, J., Crawford, M.C., “The <i>Lex Irnitana</i> : A New Copy of the Flavian Municipal Law,” <i>JRS</i> 76 (1986): 147–243
<i>lex Urs.</i>	Crawford, M. C. (ed.), <i>Roman Statutes</i> I, no. 25. BICSSup 64; London, 1996
<i>LHR</i>	<i>Law and History Review</i>
<i>LSJ</i>	Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . With rev. suppl., Oxford, 1996
Meritt	Meritt, B. D., <i>Corinth, Volume VIII, Part I: Greek Inscriptions 1896–1927</i> . Cambridge, 1931
M-M	Moulton, J. H., Milligan, G. (eds.), <i>The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament Illustrated from the Papyri and Other Non-Literary Sources</i> . London, 1930, repr., Peabody, MA, 1997
Muraoka	Muraoka, T., <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Louvain, 2009
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NPNF¹</i>	<i>A select library of the Nicene and post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church: first series: vol. 10 – Saint Chrysostom: homilies on the Gospel of Saint Matthew</i> (ed. Philip Schaff; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978)
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i> OCD</i>	Hornblower, S., Spawforth, A. J. S. (eds.), <i>The Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> . 4th ed. Oxford, 2012
<i>OGIS</i>	<i>Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i>
<i>OLD</i>	Glare, P. G. W. (ed.), <i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> . Oxford, 1968–
<i>PG</i>	Migne, J.-P. (ed.), <i>Patrologiae cursus completus . . . Series graeca</i> . Paris, 1857–83
PDubl	<i>Greek Papyri from Dublin</i>
<i>PIR</i>	Klebs, E., et al. (eds.), <i>Prosopographia Imperii Romani</i> . Berlin, 1897–
PLond	<i>Greek Papyri in the British Museum</i>
POxy	<i>Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i>
PSchøyen	<i>Papyri graecae Schøyen</i>
PYadin	<i>The Documents from the Bar Kochba Period in the Cave of Letters</i>
<i>RE</i>	Pauly, A. F. (ed.), <i>Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> . 1893–. New ed. G. Wissowa, 49 vols. Munich, 1908–

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<i>REA</i>	<i>Revue des études anciennes</i>
<i>REB</i>	<i>Revue des études byzantines</i>
<i>REG</i>	<i>Revue des études grecques</i>
<i>RP I</i>	Rizakis, A. D., Zoumbaki, S. B., Kantiréa, M. (eds.), <i>Roman Peloponnese I. Roman Personal Names in Their Social Context (Achaia, Arcadia, Argolis, Corinthia and Eleia)</i> . Meletēmata 31. Paris, 2001
<i>RPC I</i>	Amandry, M., Burnett, A., Ripollès, P. P. (eds.), <i>Roman Provincial Coinage, 1.1. From the Death of Caesar to the Death of Vitellius (44 BC–AD 69)</i> . London, 1998
<i>RS I</i>	Crawford, M. C. (ed.), <i>Roman Statutes I</i> , Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies suppl. 64. London, 1996
<i>SB</i>	<i>Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Ägypten</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum</i>
<i>SIG</i>	<i>Sylloge inscriptionum graecarum</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	Kittel, G. (ed.), <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Translated by G. W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids, 1964–1976
<i>TWNT</i>	Kittel, G. (ed.), <i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> 10 vols. Stuttgart, 1932–1979
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>West</i>	West, A. B., <i>Corinth, Volume VIII, Part II: Latin Inscriptions 1896–1926</i> . Cambridge, 1931
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>