



## DETAILS



### ***Paul's "Works of the Law" in the Perspective of Second-Century Reception***

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## Old, New, and Early Perspectives on Paul

*Paul's "Works of the Law" in the Perspective of Second-Century Reception* by Matthew J. Thomas examines how second-century readers understood Paul's writing that we are justified by faith apart from "works of the law." This disputed term represents a fault line between "old" and "new" perspectives on Paul. Was the apostle reacting against the Jews' good works done to earn salvation, or the Mosaic law's practices that identified the Jewish people? Matthew J. Thomas examines how Paul's second-century readers understood these points in conflict, how their readings relate to "old" and "new" perspectives, and what their collective witness suggests about the apostle's own meaning. Surprisingly, these early witnesses align closely with the "new" perspective, though their reasoning often differs from both modern viewpoints. They suggest that Paul opposes these works neither due to moralism, nor primarily for experiential or social reasons, but because the promised new law and covenant, which are transformative and universal in scope, have come in Christ.

Originally published in 2018 by Mohr Siebeck, *Paul's "Works of the Law" in the Perspective of Second-Century Reception* is now available in North America in a beautiful new edition from IVP Academic. The IVP Academic edition features the original text by Thomas and now includes a new preface by Thomas and a foreword from Alister McGrath.



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