



Paul: His Life and Teaching

By John McRay

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The apostle Paul and his significance for the New Testament and Christianity is a perennial topic of interest, but few evangelical surveys of his life offer a truly holistic picture of the man and his world. Now available in trade paper, John McRay's Paul explores the apostle's pre-conversion days, missionary travels, and theological contributions. A specialist in archaeology, the author draws on his more than forty years of teaching experience as well as knowledge gained from extensive travels to the places Paul visited. Paul is a comprehensive and readable presentation of Paul's ministry and theology that weaves together historical backgrounds, archaeological discoveries, and theological themes.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

As the culmination of 45 years of teaching and researching Paul, McRay (Wheaton Coll. Graduate Sch.) has written an introduction to Paul's life and thought aimed at an undergraduate college audience. The book, which faithfully treats Paul in his own time and place, is divided into two parts. The first part provides a detailed examination of Paul's biography that uses a historical-archaeological approach to complement references in Acts and Paul's own letters. New insights into the difficult problem of Pauline chronology are offered, as the author situates each Pauline letter in historical and social context. The second section deals with Paul's main theological ideas (e.g., atonement, justification, the Law, etc.) as found in his letters and grounds these ideas in the Jewish religious thought of the time. While McCray's book succeeds in contextualizing Paul and his teachings, Jerome Murphy O'Connor's *Paul: A Critical Life* provides a better chronology and James D.G. Dunn's *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* a more detailed look at the theology. Recommended for academic libraries only.

Charlie Murray, C.S.S., Fordham Univ., New York

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From the Back Cover

"McRay's commentary on the life of the Apostle Paul is an excellent resource for ministers, teachers, and students wishing to add to their New Testament library. . . . I found McRay's text to be very helpful as it placed much of Paul's writing, travels, and theology in the context of ancient history. . . . McRay provides a good overview of Pauline theology by discussing many of Paul's letters in conjunction with Acts and the history of the early church. He weaves Paul's travels with the letters and provides the reader with both a chronological guide to the ministry of Paul and the early church."--Ron Clark, *Restoration Quarterly*

"Aiming this textbook at the college level, McRay makes excellent use of charts, maps, and pictures from his travels. . . . McRay's chronology of Paul's life is straightforward and effectively harmonizes the Acts narrative with the Pauline NT writings. . . . First century background information offered is helpful, such as descriptions of ancient cities, Roman customs, and rabbinic practices. The second half of the book, on Paul's teaching, gives clear descriptions of Pauline theology. . . . McRay offers a novel examination of discernable patterns of Paul's use of pronouns as a key to understanding Paul's theology. . . . This book is valuable for students, pastors and teachers."--James R. Wicker, *Southwestern Journal of Theology*

"A gem of a purchase that will prove to be one of your most-used volumes in the years ahead. . . . McRay's prose is lively and engaging. . . . Because of his awareness of recent studies, McRay was able to convince me to shift significantly the timelines I have been using. . . . Glean[s] an incredible amount of useful background and interpretive insight that will benefit pastors, students, teachers, and all who wish to dig into Paul's letters."--Wayne Brouwer, *Calvin Theological Journal*

"McRay's book should be a welcome addition to the field. . . . This book will provide an informed overview of the topic."--John D. Harvey, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*

"The strength of this book is the author's extensive knowledge of the geography and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean world."--J. E. Lunceford, *Choice*

About the Author

John McRay (Ph.D., University of Chicago) is emeritus professor of New Testament and archaeology at

Wheaton College Graduate School. He is the author of *Archaeology and the New Testament* and coauthor of *Bible Archaeology*. Also a professional photographer, the author includes many of his photos in this book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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