

Hans KLEIN, *Entwicklungslinien im Corpus Paulinum und weitere Studien zu Paulustexten*, edited by Tobias NICKLAS (FRLANT 265), Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2016.

Professor of New Testament, former Dean of the Lutheran Theological Faculty in Sibiu/Hermannstadt, Hans Klein is an ecclesially, socially and politically engaged man, a prolific writer, and no doubt one of the most respected biblical scholars in Romania. His international reputation is mainly due to his impressive commentary on Luke (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005).

The volume was edited by Tobias Nicklas for Hans Klein's 75th birthday and it comprises twenty collected essays, many of them largely revised and expanded. Klein dedicates the volume to the memory of Ferdinand Hahn, his former doctoral supervisor and friend. The contributions include eleven detailed analyses of theological and ethical issues: the concept of new life, the image of God, Christology, the power of the Gospel, faith, righteousness and justification, ecclesiology, the equal worth of Christians, the Spirit of God, conscience, and the will of God. The approach is consequent: the first part explores the main perspectives on the topic in the undisputed epistles, then the manner in which the topic is adapted in the deuterio-Pauline epistles (2 Thess, Col, Eph, the Pastoral Epistles), followed by an overview of the trends or development directions (*Entwicklungslinien*). Nine further essays address various particular topics. Under the heading "Declaration and promise, preaching and confession" Klein explores the change of personal pronouns in the *Corpus Paulinum*. Further discussions tackle Paul as apostle, prophet and teacher in the *homologoumena*, and Paul as preacher, apostle and teacher in the Pastoral Epistles [PE], the meaning of Eph 2,20 ("built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets"), the references to craftsmanship as premises for understanding Pauline theology, and the self-defence of Paul in 2 Corinthians paralleled with that of Jesus in John, a topic taken over again in the following essay on Paul's apology of the apostolate in 2 Corinthians. Paul's reference to the divine offer of reconciliation (2 Cor 5) is read as an incentive to solve a crisis in the Corinthian community. The final essay tackles the way Paul underpins his call for the Jerusalem collect in 2 Cor 8–9.

The assumption underlying these essays is that theology is built on two pillars, tradition and situation. The first is preponderant in times of stability, the latter during historical changes. (The detached discussion of tradition goes beyond the common Lutheran critique of tradition.) Earliest Christianity, including the lifetime of Paul, involved a radical spiritual change through which the situation transformed tradition. The experience of the Risen Christ produced new tenets of faith, crystallised in formulas and liturgical forms, that eventually became tradition in their turn. Klein explores the way Paul adapts the situation during his mission, to turn afterwards to the way the following generation continues this process of