

PAUL AND HIS LETTERS II

LESSON 1

Tero Fredriksson: Old and New Perspective on Paul

POHJOISMAINEN RAAMATTUKOULU

PAUL AND HIS LETTERS II

THE OLD AND THE NEW PERSPECTIVE TO THE LETTERS OF PAUL

~~New~~ Perspective

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

CENTRAL FIGURES IN NPP (NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL)

- Krister Stendahl
- E.P. Sanders
- James Dunn
- N.T. Wright
- Paula Fredriksen
- Colin Campbell

TRADITIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL (TPP)

- Paul converted to Christianity on the road to Damascus
- Paul examined himself, and a believer must examine himself whether he is in faith or not.
- Roman Catholicism and Judaism are legalistic religions.
- Doctrine of Justification through faith is the most central doctrine in the Pauline Epistles. The righteousness of Christ is imputed for the benefit of the believer.

CENTRAL CLAIMS

- Paul had a robust conscience, he didn't suffer from a guilt complex
- Augustine and Luther suffered from a guilt complex as well as whole Western Christianity.
- Paul was called to be an apostle on the road to Damascus, he didn't convert to Christianity.

CENTRAL CLAIMS

- Pharisaic Judaism was not legalistic, but it was based on grace.
- A person is justified by faith, but judged according to the works.
- Justification is a declaration of participation in the Body of Christ. The doctrine of imputed righteousness is rejected.



INTROSPECTION 2 COR 13:5-7

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified. Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified."

PERSEVERANCE, A GIFT FROM GOD? MATTHEW 24:13-14

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."



ENDURING THE TESTING 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Tero Fredriksson:
Old and New
Perspective on Paul

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

ENDURING THE TESTING JAMES 1:2-3, 12

Tero Fredriksson:
Old and New
Perspective on Paul

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ... Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

LESSON 2

Tero Fredriksson:
Old and New
Perspective on Paul



Tero Fredriksson:
Old and New
Perspective on Paul

NPP: PHARISAISM / JUDAISM

1. God chose Israel by grace. A Jew starts his life as a saved person and can enter the eternity.
2. A Jew remains in the covenant of grace through loyalty. Sin results in a punishment and good works are rewarded.
3. Sacrifices, punishments, confession of sin, death, etc. atone for all sins.
4. Punishments and rewards are not related to the position of a Jew, but he will enter the eternity.

NPP: REPENTANCE AND DEATH AS AN ATONEMENT

"And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done:"

Joshua 7:20

*"And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you **this day**." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones."*

Joshua 7:25

UPP: JEWISH SOTERIOLOGY AND PAUL

1. A person enters the family of God by grace through faith (Eph 2:8)
2. Sin results in punishment and good works are rewarded, but they have no relation to perdition or eternal life (1 Kor 3:8-15).
3. Dunn and N.T. Wright are exceptions in the NPP circles: also believers can be judged to perdition at the judgment seat of Christ.
4. Keeping rewards and salvation separate is an essential feature of Pauline theology.

NPP FALLACY #1: THE LAW OF MOSES

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Gal. 3:13-14 / Deut. 21:22-23

NPP FALLACY #2: THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,"

Ephesians 1:4-5

NPP FALLACY #3: EFFICACIOUS CALL

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

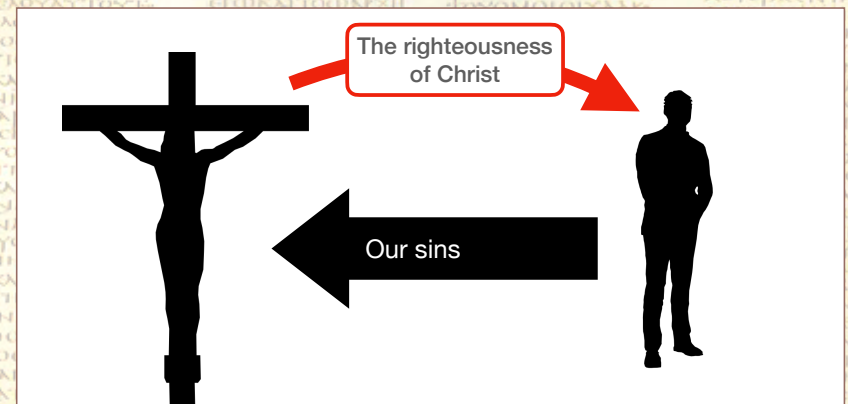
Romans 8:28-30

NPP FALLACY #4: FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD

*"For by grace (**fem.**) you have been saved through faith (**masc.**), and that not of yourselves; it is the gift (**neut.**) of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

Ephesians 2:8-9

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS (TPP) ROMANS CHAPTER 4



NPP—DECLARED RIGHTEOUSNESS CENTRAL PASSAGE: ROM. 1:16-17

E.P. Sanders

- The gentiles are declared to be members of the family of God and the justification doesn't primarily deal with the salvation of the believer.
- Justification is through faith, but the believer is judged according to his deeds (rewards, punishments).

NPP—DECLARED RIGHTEOUSNESS CENTRAL PASSAGE: ROM. 1:16-17

N.T. Wright

- An individual is called and declared to be a member in the family of God.
- Justification has two stages: in the first stage faith is gifted to a person, and in the second stage a person is judged at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Kor 5:10).
- Those believers whose basic direction of life is regressive will perish.

ROMANS 1:14-18 HIERARCHICAL TEXTUAL CONTEXT

14. *I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.*
15. *So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.*
16. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*
17. *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*
18. *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*