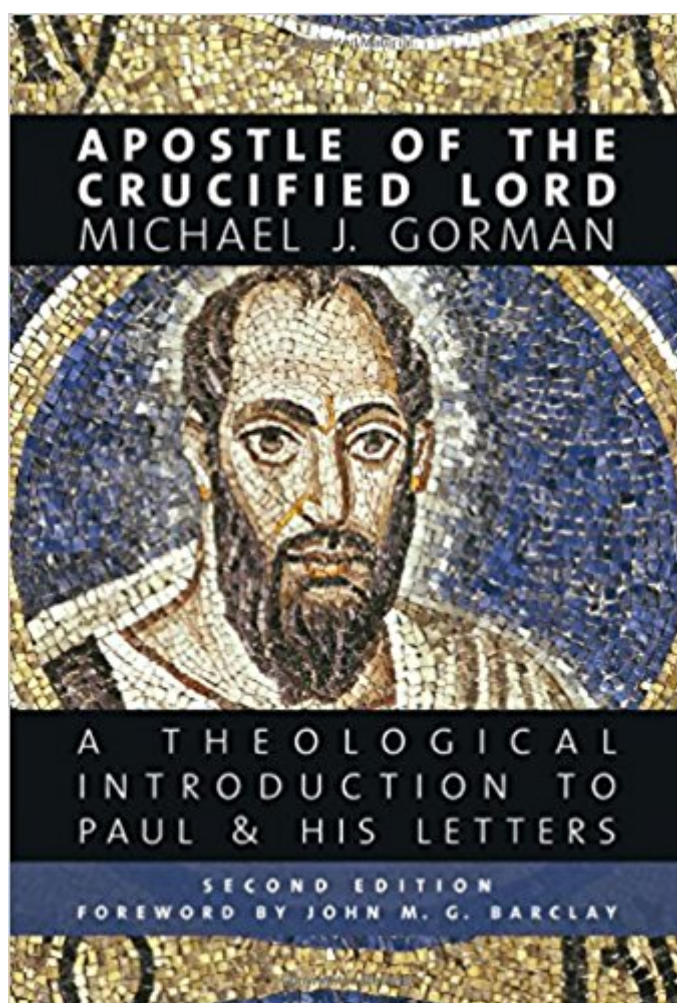


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# Apostle Of The Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction To Paul And His Letters



## Synopsis

THIS COMPREHENSIVE, WIDELY USED TEXT by Michael Gorman presents a theologically focused, historically grounded interpretation of the apostle Paul and raises significant questions for engaging Paul today. After providing substantial background information on Paul's world, career, letters, gospel, spirituality, and theology, Gorman covers in full detail each of the thirteen Pauline epistles. Enhancing the text are questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each chapter as well as numerous photos, maps, and tables throughout. The new introduction in this second edition helpfully situates the book within current approaches to Paul. Gorman also brings the conversation up-to-date with major recent developments in Pauline studies and devotes greater attention to themes of participation, transformation, resurrection, justice, and peace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

N. T. Wright [—](#) •University of St. Andrews "Michael Gorman enviably combines simplicity of presentation with profound originality. The present work, enhanced in this new edition, is simultaneously an accessible textbook and an exposition of challenging new ideas which all Pauline scholars must take seriously. A book to draw in the beginner and to compel the expert into fresh reflection." Douglas A. Campbell [—](#) •Duke Divinity School "Gorman's learned, sustained, inclusive advocacy of participation as the center of Paul's gospel is one of the key features of the modern scholarly landscape. This second edition of his balanced yet probing introduction to Paul's thought is therefore profoundly welcome." Michael F. Bird [—](#) •Ridley College,

Melbourne "The best introduction to Paul and his letters just got better!" Frank J. Matera  
 Catholic University of America "I have used Michael Gorman's introduction to Paul with both undergraduate and graduate students. In my experience it is the best available introduction to Paul and his letters. Theological as well as historical and literary in its approach, it introduces students to what they need to know about Paul and his letters. The appearance of this revised and updated edition is good news for all who love and teach Paul." Susan Eastman  
 Duke Divinity School "In this accessible book written for a wide audience, Gorman charts a journey to the transformative heart of Paul's gospel: the crucified and resurrected Messiah."

Unlike the many books that treat the apostle Paul merely as a historical figure and his letters as literary relics, this new study by Michael Gorman focuses on the theological message of Paul's writings, particularly what they have to say to the contemporary church. An innovative and comprehensive treatment of Paul, including commentary on all of the Pauline letters, Gorman's "Apostle of the Crucified Lord" unpacks the many dimensions of Paul's thought carefully and holistically. Six introductory chapters provide background discussion on Paul's world, his letters, his gospel, his spirituality, and his theology, while the main body of the book covers in turn and in full detail each of the Pauline epistles. Gorman gives the context of each letter, offers a careful reading of the text, and colors his words with insightful quotations from earlier interpreters of Paul. Enhancing the text itself are questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each chapter and numerous photos, maps, and tables throughout. All in all, "Apostle of the Crucified Lord" is the ideal book for students and any other readers interested in seriously engaging Paul's challenging letters. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an excellent work on the Apostle Paul. It spells out his background against the Jewish, Hellenistic and Roman culture of his time and the specific lens which he preached and wrote about Jesus Christ. While Paul writes of both the work of Christ crucified and resurrected, his primary message over and over again is the power of God through Christ crucified. It is through the crucifixion that believers are able to carry Christ crucified in themselves--be little Christ's as it were--expressing the well-known passage from Galatians: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. [Galatians 3:28] Christians live by what that author states to be a "cruciform" life, one in which they live their lives through the work Jesus did on the cross--the crucifixion--conform to this life, dying to self. This life is a supernatural one as belief in

Christ creates the existence of each Christian and Christ as one as they live in the world together living in faith in Jesus.

I had the opportunity of reading and subsequently reviewing this book for a pauline theology seminar at my school last semester, and I was pleased to do so. Gorman has made his greek orthodox voice within pauline scholarship a bit louder through the publication of *Apostle of the Crucified Lord*. His fresh perspective offers a wholesome, ecclesiastical approach to Paul and his milieu which allows him to scrutinize the majority of pauline scholarship through the lens of church history. Rather than using this perspective as a sort of pedestal to gloat, Gorman seizes it as an opportunity to criticize Paul and his "theology" fairly and thoroughly. Furthermore, this text is a fantastic resource to own because of its convenient and concise commentary of Paul's letters found within the second half of the book. However, this book contains quite a bit of flaws as well. One in particular being its faulty advertisement. It claims to be a "theological introduction", but with an extent of 592 pages, I would hate (or love..) to see how large his actual pauline theology book would be. Moreover, it seems as if the content of the book isn't entirely appropriate for a student who is being introduced to Paul for the first time. Besides the first couple chapters which explain simply the milieu, context, and reason for which Paul is writing, the rest of the book functions as a text to be read by those already introduced to pauline theology. Also, amongst other material flaws, Gorman's position on a few subjects go a bit awry throughout his discourse. For instance, his position on the pauline authorship of highly disputed texts, particularly 1 Timothy, change towards the end of the book. Whereas at one point he claims emphatically that it was not written by Paul, toward the end of the discourse he settles with an "agnostic" position (i.e. he is unsure and proves it!). For these reasons I gave it four stars and recommend it for purchase. Also if you have not read his book *"Inhabiting the Cruciform God"*, I suggest you read it at some point for it will further explain his position on justification and theosis which are, I think, his greatest contributions to scholarship and only briefly covered in *"Apostle of the Crucified Lord"*.

This book gives a great history of what the Roman Empire was like during the time of Jesus and the early church. The life of Paul is like an extension of Jesus life. What a beautiful example of love for others, and love for the churches to whom he wrote letters. I have read only through Chapter 4 and plan to read that chapter again as I want to absorb more. There is so much depth in learning about Paul and what he has written.

Really appreciated Gorman's cruciform insights. Enjoyed the general discussions at the beginning and the expository of verses at the end. Was a terrific resource for writing a sermon on Romans 8.

It is good and am enjoying it.

## REFERENCE WORK.

This is ideal for a student, but more so for someone bogged down in the minutiae of Pauline studies looking to regain perspective. Gorman doesn't let you miss issues surrounding what we don't know with certainty -- text or authorship, whether a phrase is Paul's or an appropriated hymn, if he was married or haunted by some psychological demons -- but his emphasis is on reaching a more historically informed and theologically sophisticated understanding what we need to know better: Paul's proclamation of Christ crucified and raised. This is a book that every serious student of the Bible should have.

If you are thinking about beginning a serious study of Paul and his life then this book is a wonderful place to start. Gorman is an elegant writer and does a thorough job explaining Paul and how his canonical written letters relate to his life and teachings. Gorman is very upfront with his thoughts and doubts; for instance he details his thoughts on Pauline authorship of the letters and honestly conveys how his thoughts have changed through his career. The summaries of the letters are concise but thorough. In addition he provides an up to date bibliography on the best full commentaries currently available. If Paul and his letters have intrigued you and you want to know more about the man and his writing, then this book will provide a solid foundation and provide you with many more avenues to explore in your reading.

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