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New Testament- Book Review  
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# New Testament

## Paul the Jewish Theologian by Brad H. Young

Brad H. Young, a Judaic Christian Studies Professor, wrote "**Paul the Jewish Theologian**," a book with 352 pages available since 1997. The book aims to explain how Paul's Jewish roots influenced his writings in the New Testament, making it ideal for scholars, students, and anyone interested in comprehending the Jewish foundation of Christianity. The book retails for approximately \$21.

Brad H. Young, made his Ph.D. in Judaic-Christian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is a professor of Judaic Christian Studies at Oral Roberts University. He is a prolific author with works such as "**Paul the Jewish Theologian**," "**The Parables: Jewish Tradition and Christian Interpretation**," and "**Meet the Rabbis: Rabbinic Thought and the Teachings of Jesus**." Furthermore, Dr. Young founded the Gospel Research Foundation, an institution devoted to advancing biblical research and scholarship.

Chapter One of the book introduces the main idea stating that Paul's theology has its roots deeply entrenched in Jewish customs and beliefs. It emphasizes the importance of comprehending the Jewish context of Paul's writings and how his upbringing, education and cultural background affected his theological viewpoint.

Chapter Two examines Paul's perspective on the Torah and wisdom. Dr. Young argues that Paul saw the Torah as a manifestation of God's wisdom and discusses the role of Torah obedience in both Jewish and Christian communities.

Chapter Three explores Paul's concept of justification by faith and its connection to Jewish notions of justice. Dr. Young contends that Paul's understanding of justification originates from Jewish ideas of God's justice and mercy.

Chapter Four focuses on Paul's understanding of the covenant and its importance for the Christian community. The author posits that Paul's view of the covenant is intimately linked

to his understanding of the community, and that the Christian community is a continuation of the Jewish covenant community.

Chapter Five examines Pauls view of eschatology and its relationship to the Jewish people. Dr. Young suggests that Pauls perception of the end times is closely linked to the Jewish hope for the restoration of Israel and that the Christian community is an extension of the Jewish people of God.

Chapter Six discusses Pauls Christology and how his understanding of Jesus as the Messiah stems from Jewish messianic expectations. The chapter also explores the role of the Holy Spirit in Pauls theology and how it connects to Jewish beliefs about Gods Spirit.

Chapter Seven focuses on Pauls understanding of the mysteries of God and their significance for the Christian community. Dr. Young argues that Pauls perspective on the mysteries is rooted in Jewish apocalyptic literature and that they serve to unite the diverse members of the Christian community.

Chapter eight addresses the implications of the study for Christian Jewish relations. Dr. Young argues that comprehending the Jewish foundations of Pauls theology can help bridge the divide between Christianity and Judaism, fostering greater mutual understanding and respect. The author also examines the implications of Pauls gospel message for Jewish people today.

**N.T. Wright's 'Paul: In Fresh Perspective'** is a comparable work to **'Paul, the Jewish Theologian'** by Dr. Young as they share a common goal of presenting a fresh interpretation of Pauls theology and situating it within its Jewish context. However, while Youngs focus is solely on the Jewish roots of Pauls theology, N.T. Wright takes a wider approach, exploring various aspects of Pauls life, teachings, and influence on Christianity. Both works are widely acclaimed for their scholarly rigor and their capacity to offer novel insights into a significant figure in the history of Christianity.

The Book presents a novel perspective on the theology of Paul. It delivers an extensive analysis of Pauls Jewish background and sets his teachings in the broader framework of Judaism. If you wish to enrich your understanding of Pauls theology and the Jewish roots of Christianity, this book can be an excellent resource. Nonetheless, it is essential to acknowledge that this book caters to an academic readership and may be more appropriate for readers who possess a foundation in theology or biblical studies. Overall I would definitely recommend that book for someone who is interested in learning about Paul.