

E. P. Sanders, *Paul. The Apostle's Life, Letters, and Thought*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2015. Pages, xxxv + 862. Paper, \$39.00.

E. P. Sanders is one of the most influential biblical scholars of the modern era, one whose work has brought about a new appreciation of Paul's relationship to his Jewish heritage. His foundational work, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism* (1977), helped scholars move from a stereotyped view of first-century Judaism as legalistic to understanding it primarily as a response to the gift of God's revelation through fidelity to the Law—what Sanders termed “covenantal nomism.” After a long hiatus Sanders has now published another major work on Paul, meant to be a “complete” account of the apostle's life and the content of his writings. The book is

intended for a biblically literate but introductory audience and it is written with Sanders's characteristic clarity. He examines in detail the theological argumentation of Paul's undisputed letters, although he claims to be a historian rather than a theologian. Perhaps of greatest value is the extensive and detailed presentation of the life of Paul and the religious and social context in which the apostle worked and wrote (although, curiously, Sanders does not take up the debated question of whether or not Paul was a Roman citizen). This work will surely be a reference point for Pauline scholarship for some time to come.