

Contents

<i>Contributors</i>	vii
Introduction: Paul's Relevance Today	1
Traditional Biblical Criticism	2
The Reorientation of Reader Perspectives: Reading "from the Margins"	3
Origins of the Present Volume	5
Overview of the Volume	7
1. "No Longer as a Slave": Reading the Interpretation History of Paul's Epistle to Philemon	11
DEMETRIUS K. WILLIAMS	
Overview and Approach: An Ideological Optic/Option	11
Reading Philemon from the Early Church to the Reformation	15
Reading Philemon in the Modern Era	20
Newer Readings of Philemon from the Margins	35
2. Utility, Fraternity, and Reconciliation: Ancient Slavery as a Context for the Return of Onesimus	47
MITZI J. SMITH	
From Useless to Useful: Slave Productivity	48
I Am My Brother's Keeper: Familial Slavery and Fictive Kinship	51
Fugitive Slaves and Reconciliation	55
Conclusion	57
3. Nat Is Back: The Return of the Re/Oppressed in Philemon	59
JAMES A. NOEL	
Slavery in the Greco-Roman World	61
Slavery in Paul's Letters	63
The Occasion of Philemon	64
Dred Scott	65
American Slavery and the Legal Construction of Race	67
White Supremacist Religious Discourse	69
Turning Again to the Mis-Reading of Paul and the Gospels	73
Taney's Freudian Slip	75
Nat Turner's Voluntary Return	78

Nat Is Back in the Repressed	82
Conclusion	87
4. Onesimus Speaks: Diagnosing the Hys/Terror of the Text	91
MATTHEW V. JOHNSON	
Missing the Mark	91
Contra Paul	94
The Hys/Terror of the Text	97
5. “Ain’t You Marster?”: Interrogating Slavery and Gender in Philemon	101
MARGARET B. WILKERSON	
Philemon Today	102
<i>Dutchman</i>	103
<i>The Drinking Gourd</i>	105
<i>A Black Woman Speaks</i>	108
<i>Banished</i>	113
<i>Traces of the Trade</i>	115
Philemon Meets Onesimus	118
6. Enslaved by the Text: The Uses of Philemon	121
JAMES W. PERKINSON	
Exegetical Background	122
Homiletic Middle Ground	124
Abolitionist Common Ground	126
Legal Ground	127
Slave “Black”-Ground	129
Stereotypic Foreground	131
Erotic Underground	133
Ground Cover	135
Groundwork	137
Grunt Work	139
7. “Brother Saul”: An Ambivalent Witness to Freedom	143
ALLEN DWIGHT CALLAHAN	
Apostle of Freedom?	143
Freedom for Women	146
Hearing Paul Correctively	148
Paul and Jesus	151
Paul and Black Theology	154
Conclusion	157
<i>Notes</i>	161
<i>Index</i>	175