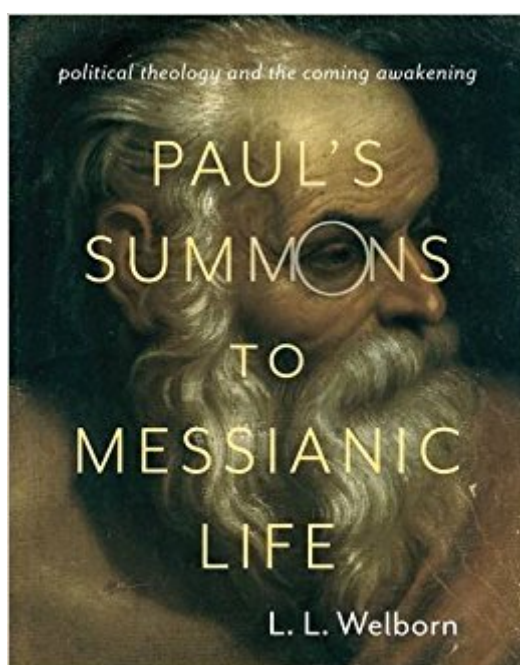


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Paul's Summons To Messianic Life: Political Theology And The Coming Awakening (Insurrections: Critical Studies In Religion, Politics, And Culture)



Synopsis

Taubes, Badiou, Agamben, Žižek, Reinhard, and Santner have found in the Apostle Paul's emphasis on neighbor-love a positive paradigm for politics. By thoroughly reexamining Pauline eschatology, L. L. Welborn suggests that neighbor-love depends upon an orientation toward the messianic event, which Paul describes as the "now time" and which he imagines as "awakening." Welborn compares the Pauline dialectic of awakening to attempts by Hellenistic philosophers to rouse their contemporaries from moral lethargy and to the Marxist idea of class consciousness, emphasizing the apostle's radical spirit and moral relevance.

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Customer Reviews

A courageous and welcome grappling with contemporary philosophers by a New Testament scholar who has expertise in the history, languages, and methodologies of reading Paul. Paul's Summons to Messianic Life reminds us of the relevance of New Testament scholarship to important contemporary debates on universalism, time, and even political action. (Laura Nasrallah, Harvard Divinity School)A manifesto for a Paulinism received histories have strategically forgotten, Welborn's book presents a compelling rethinking of the historical Paul in ancient contexts that substantially transforms the way we hear Paul in recent theoretical or philosophical conversations. (Ward Blanton, University of Kent)Paul's Summons to Messianic Life should spark a lively and far-reaching debate in both departments of religion and philosophy that might indeed make Paul

'legible' in entirely new ways. (Brigitte Kahl, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York)A provocative sociopolitical analysis of Paul's letters.... Recommended. (Choice)[I] eagerly await a sequel and recommend this book to anyone interested in the contemporary political implications of St. Paul's theology. (Journal of Church and State)An interesting read that offers food for thought. (Journal of Theological Studies)

Taubes, Badiou, Agamben, Žižek, Reinhard, and Santner have found in the Apostle Paul's emphasis on neighbor-love a positive paradigm for politics. By thoroughly reexamining Pauline eschatology, L. L. Welborn suggests that neighbor-love depends upon an orientation toward the messianic event, which Paul describes as the "now time" and which he imagines as an "awakening." Welborn compares the Pauline dialectic of awakening to attempts by Hellenistic philosophers to rouse their contemporaries from moral lethargy and to the Marxist idea of class consciousness, emphasizing the apostle's radical spirit and moral relevance.

This is an exciting book! I have been reading the recent theo-philosophical literature on Paul and this concise text brings his thinking into the today's political debates with a refreshingly radical approach. Welborn's engagement with Taubes is welcome and his comments on Agamben needed. A thoughtful, learned and spirited book!

A wonderful insight, well researched and documented, into the Paul that we should be knowing.

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