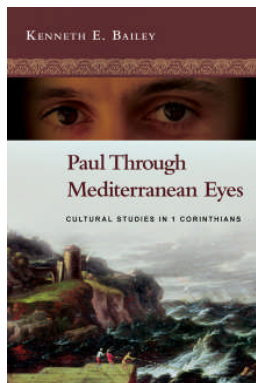


## BOOK DETAILS



*Paul Through  
Mediterranean Eyes:  
Cultural Studies in  
1 Corinthians*  
Available October

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\$30, 590 pages, paper  
978-0-8308-3934-6

### An Uncommon Corinthian Commentary

*“Yet another commentary on 1 Corinthians? Hardly. With this book Bailey opens a new genre in the rhetorical analysis of this famous and difficult New Testament letter. He argues that 1 Corinthians consists of five essays and each has a common ancient rhetorical structure (“ring composition”) missed by most exegetes. . . . [In] addition Bailey is using tools unavailable to the average scholar: twenty-two ancient translations of 1 Corinthians into Arabic, Syriac and Hebrew, as well as commentaries dating as far back as ninth-century Damascus. This book is a gold mine of astonishing new discoveries, cross-cultural insight and sound pastoral wisdom. It will inevitably join the ranks of the great and important books on this epistle.”*

**Gary M. Burge**, professor of New Testament, Wheaton College

*“Kenneth Bailey sets forth a courageous proposition that Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was in fact written as a circular letter for all the churches. . . . This is a study on 1 Corinthians like none other I have seen. A truly unique approach to studying a Pauline letter.”*

**Michael F. Bird**, Lecturer in Theology, Bible College of Queensland, Australia, and blogger at *Euangelion*

*“Dr. Ken Bailey is already widely known for shedding light on the New Testament ‘through Middle Eastern eyes’. . . . Dr. Bailey shows the relevance of prophetic and rabbinic forms of language, including especially chiasmus, and other literary and rhetorical forms. He uses Arabic, Coptic and Syriac sources. He rightly stresses the coherence of this epistle and its theology of the cross. He is alert to intertextual resonances and offers distinctive ideas. On top of all this, he produces numerous lively illustrations and practical applications. Especially for those who look for more than a conventional commentary, I warmly commend this work.”*

**Anthony C. Thiselton**, professor of Christian theology, University of Nottingham, and author of *The Living Paul*

*“With remarkable attention to the detail of rabbinic rhetoric, Kenneth provides a window into the world of 1 Corinthians that is majestic in the*

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*“A whole new way of receiving and interpreting this remarkable correspondence.”*

*vista it offers; and, in his inimitable style, he mines deeply into Paul's use of parallelisms and Jewish structures of thought and writing, offering the reader a whole new way of receiving and interpreting this remarkable correspondence. With the skill of a biblical surgeon, Kenneth opens up the layers of meaning present. This commentary will bring many hours of reflection and insight for the edification of the reader and be a blessing to God's church.”*

**The Most Rev. Roger Herft**, Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of Western Australia

*“Well-known for his numerous works on Jesus and the Gospels through Middle Eastern eyes, Kenneth Bailey now turns his attention to Paul's writing as he provides a powerful and passionate reading of 1 Corinthians within its Jewish and eastern Mediterranean contexts. Suggesting that 1 Corinthians is an 'apostolic homily' written within the framework of Old Testament 'prophetic homily,' this work itself can be considered as a modern 'homily' that skillfully allows Paul's message to touch the hearts of the contemporary audience. . . . To students of the New Testament text, this provides an invaluable resource for the history of the reception of Paul's message to the Corinthian believers. To the general audience, this also serves as a helpful reminder of the significance of the long history behind our appropriation of the sacred texts.”*

**David W. Pao**, chair and associate professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

*“Bailey's warm pastoral style, up-to-date scholarship and attention to theology make for an excellent exposition of Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians. His unparalleled knowledge of the New Testament in Arabic translation, coupled with his lifetime of experience in the Middle East, gives Bailey a unique perspective on the biblical text. Highlighting Paul's rhetorical argument and extensive use of Jewish Scriptures, Bailey's work is a rare commentary that serves both pastor and layperson. This book sets a high standard for clarity and practical wisdom in the field of biblical exposition.”*

**Lynn H. Cohick**, professor of New Testament, Wheaton College

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



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### Kenneth E. Bailey

Kenneth E. Bailey is an author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament studies. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he also serves as Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church, USA. He holds graduate degrees in Arabic language and literature, and in systematic theology; his Th.D. is in New Testament.

Bailey spent forty years living and teaching New Testament in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus, still holding the title of research professor (emeritus) of Middle Eastern New Testament studies at the Ecumenical Institute (Tantur), Jerusalem. Bailey has written many books in English and in Arabic, including *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, *The Cross and the Prodigal*, *Poet & Peasant*, *Through Peasant Eyes*, *Jacob & the Prodigal* and *Finding the Lost: Cultural Keys to Luke 15*.

He has also published many articles in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, *Asia Journal of Theology*, *Christianity Today*, *Expository Studies*, *Irish Biblical Studies*, *Novem Momentum*, *Theology Review* and *Themelios*.