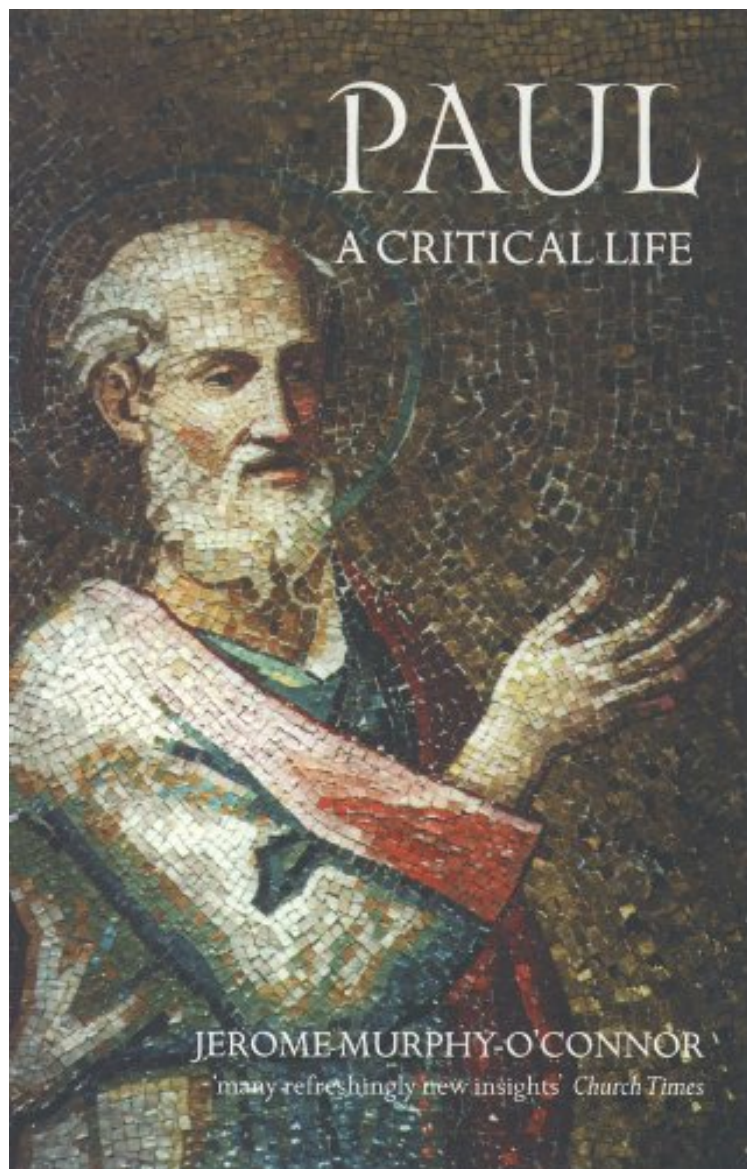


[Get free] Paul: A Critical Life

Paul: A Critical Life

Von Jerome Murphy-O'Connor
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Von Jerome Murphy-O'Connor : Paul: A Critical Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paul: A Critical Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. comprehensive and fascinatingVon Ein KundeFrom a Pauline scholar of Murphy-O'Connor caliber, it is no surprise to find an exhaustive appraisal of the details associated with the chronology of Paul's career. Once the hard stuff is out of

the way, however, Murphy-O'Connor gives his readers a fascinating glimpse into the life of Paul. Of great interest is the educational opportunities afforded to a diaspora Jew in Tarsus, the breakdown between Paul and the Antiochian church, the strategy employed by Paul in his missionary work, the precise nature of the "Judaizers" who plagued Paul in Galatia and elsewhere, and the troubled relationship of Paul to the Corinthian church. Paul emerges as passionate, occasionally biased, but always intensely involved and fascinating. References and bibliographic material abound. The bit on 2 Thessalonians is unique and well-argued. Murphy-O'Connor tries to round out Paul's career as much as possible with what can be known of Thessalonika, Ephesus, Antioch Pisidia, Philippi, and the associates involved in Paul's ministries in Asia Minor, so it offers a picture of Paul's relationships beyond the overshadowing portrait of the Corinthian correspondence. It is a book that you will go back to over the years, even if you don't agree with all of it. Enjoy.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. fascinating look at Paul's travels and spiritual growthVon Michael LecompteAnyone looking for an excellent synopsis of Paul, his travels, and spiritual growth would do well to read this book. We follow Paul as he develops his thoughts and philosophy, and as he travels throughout the Judaic world of the time. In addition, you are also given great insight into the lives of the people he meets and the travelling conditions of the times.All in all, a fascinating insight into the mind and spirit of the man who brought Christian thought into the world.

KurzbeschreibungHere Jerome Murphy-O'Connor presents a completely new, and much more vivid and dramatic account of the life of Paul than has ever previously been attempted. From his childhood in Tarsus and his years as a student in Jerusalem to the successes and failures of his ministry, this biography has no peer in terms of its detailed reconstructions of Paul's movements and motives.Traditionally, the Acts of the Apostles has provided the framework for the lives of Paul. In recent years, however, the historical value of the Acts has been called into question. Despite the accuracy of many details, they have been linked in ways which reflect the interests of Luke rather than objective reality. Critical assessment is called for if they are to be incorporated into a life of Paul.The prime source for a reconstruction of the Apostle's life must be his own writings. Recent advances in the study of the letters have brought to light new depths which enables them to be used for biographical purposes. The originality of this book lies in the combination of these two approaches, which are reinforced by close attention to the social and cultural aspects of Paul's ministry as revealed by archaeology and contemporary textsand it transforms a fountain of theological ideas into a human being.From BooklistLess a critical biography than an exhaustive historical contextualization of Paul's life, this work draws on a range of sources and extends to a level of detail that is likely to prove daunting for many general readers. But Paul's indisputable importance in determining the shape and direction of Christianity will ensure more than a scholarly audience. Murphy-O'Connor's decision to give biographical, chronological, and historical data in Paul's letters precedence over Luke's account in Acts recasts the picture most familiar to both general and scholarly audiences. His thorough examination of rabbinic sources and both ancient and modern geographic and historic sources results in a richly textured picture of the multicultural Greco-Roman world in which Paul lived and worked. Combined with a close reading of Paul's writing and the writing of his students, that picture makes a significant contribution to understanding Paul as both producer and product of the communities with which he has long been identified. Steve SchroederFrom Kirkus sA dry historical tome that would be more aptly titled "Paul: A Cultural History." The difficulties of doing ancient biography are compounded when one of the two major sources available is believed to be historically unreliable and corrupt. One of New Testament scholar Murphy-O'Connor's primary objectives is to demonstrate why Luke's account of Paul's life, contained in the Book of Acts, is an inaccurate basis for biography. Point well taken, but where to go from there? The author relies heavily on Paul's own letters, but the portrait available from them is incomplete at best. Paul revealed relatively little about his personal life, preferring to call attention to his mission. Some surprising hypotheses do emerge from this work. First, Murphy-O'Connor conjectures that Paul was not a bachelor, but a widower who had lost his family in some sort of tragedy. The psychological evidence for this is slim, and the historical evidence is nonexistent. Much stronger are the author's deductions about the letters themselves; he makes an excellent case for 2 Thessalonians as a genuine Pauline letter, a minority opinion among New Testament scholars. He also challenges Rome as the traditional site of Paul's imprisonment and demonstrates why Ephesus was a far more logical locale. The primary contribution of the book is not that it is a biography of Paul, but that it opens the door to Paul's world through geography, Roman history, and Jewish-Christian conflict. Unfortunately, the prose is mired in academic passivity and such dense phrases as "abstracting from the spurious clarity of the philological argument." The book is so weighed down with cultural history that there is relatively little about Paul himself, and what there is seems to be mostly speculation. Acts, though historically imprecise, makes for a much better story. -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.