This monograph develops Rudolph’s doctoral dissertation (Cambridge 2007) to include more recent sources. The monograph’s central issue is Paul’s Jewishness. Rudolph’s introduction reviews the case for the traditional scholarly view (i.e., 1 Cor. 9.19-23 excludes a Torah-observant Paul), identifies its inadequacies and calls for reassessing the evidence. Part I (chs. 2–4) reassesses the traditional view under the rubric of intertextual, contextual and textual issues. Here he identifies deficiencies in the arguments behind the consensus reading and concludes, ‘scholars overstate their case when they use 1 Cor. 9.19-23 as incontrovertible evidence that Paul was not a Torah observant’ (p. 170). Part II (ch. 5) ‘A Proposed Interpretation of 1 Cor. 9.19-23’, addresses the secondary aim of his monograph. Here he argues from the context of 1 Cor. 9.19-23 and how Paul’s knowledge of the Jesus tradition (Jesus’ rule of adaptation on dining with Jews, Pharisees and sinners) influences this passage. Rudolph concludes that Paul’s ‘To Jews I became as a Jew’ ‘means that he [Paul] received hospitality from ordinary Jews in Israel and the Diaspora whose customs and cultures were vastly different from his own’ (pp. 203-204). Chapter 6 suitably concludes his study and its implications.

Rudolph’s monograph is a detailed and engaging study, which clearly lays out the traditional scholarly issues before identifying major weakness and then developing another way of reading 1 Cor. 9.19-23 consistent with its context and Jesus’ rule of adaptation on table-fellowship habits. This is a must-read for reconsidering Paul as a Torah-observant Jew and his relationship with Gentiles.

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