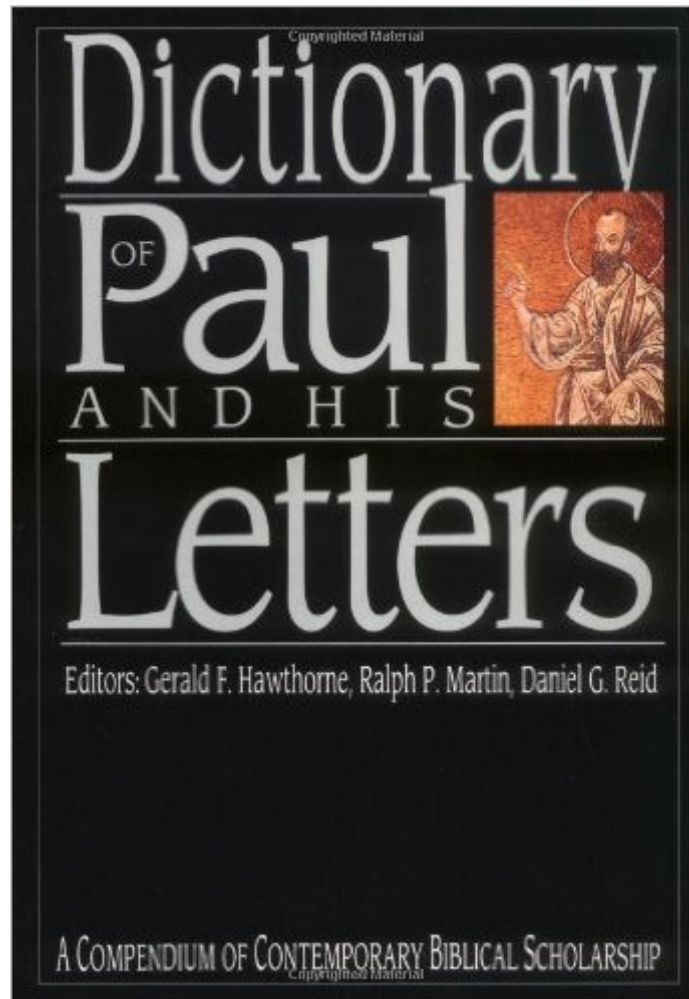


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Dictionary Of Paul And His Letters (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)



Synopsis

1994 ECPA Gold Medallion (Reference Books) The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters is a one-of-a-kind reference work. Following the format of its highly successful companion volume, the Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, this Dictionary is designed to bring students, teachers, ministers and laypeople abreast of the established conclusions and significant recent developments in Pauline scholarship. No other single reference work presents as much information focused exclusively on Pauline theology, literature, background and scholarship. In a field that recently has undergone significant shifts in perspective, the Dictionary of Paul and His Letters offers a summa of Paul and Pauline studies. In-depth articles focus on individual theological themes (such as law, resurrection and Son of God), broad theological topics (such as Christology, eschatology and the death of Christ), methods of interpretation (such as rhetorical criticism and social-scientific approaches), background topics (such as apocalypticism, Hellenism and Qumran) and various other subjects specifically related to the scholarly study of Pauline theology and literature (such as early catholicism, the center of Paul's theology, and Paul and his interpreters since F. C. Baur). Separate articles are also devoted to each of the Pauline letters to hermeneutics and to preaching Paul today. The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters takes its place alongside the Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels in presenting the fruit of evangelical New Testament scholarship at the end of the twentieth century—committed to the authority of Scripture, utilizing the best of critical methods, and maintaining dialogue with contemporary scholarship and challenges facing the church.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1067 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic; y First edition edition (November 28, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830817786

ISBN-13: 978-0830817788

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 2.5 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #61,340 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Dictionaries & Encyclopedias](#) #28 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament > Paul's Letters](#) #76 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > New Testament](#)

Customer Reviews

'The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters' is a superb reference source if your primary objective is the study of Paul's writings. As a one-volume source, unlike, for example, the six volume Anchor Bible Dictionary, it is a far less expensive reference of all Pauline issues on your desk. For most people, the very best aspect of the volume is its dedication to contemporary scholarship. This focus has many good points and a few problems. The only problem I see with its 'contemporary' focus is that some important works on Paul may not be cited. This is only a theoretical concern, as my biggest fear, that the article on 'Mysticism' would not refer to Albert Schweitzer's important 'The Mysticism of St. Paul', but it does. On the other side of the coin, all major articles include generous bibliographies to both books and articles in English, German, and French. I find no references to Italian articles, but if there were important articles written in Italian, I believe they will be here. While some major Pauline scholars such as Ed Sanders and N. T. Wright are missing from the list of contributors, there are many authorities that do weigh in. Foremost among these are James Dunn, F. F. Bruce, and David Wright. There are over a hundred contributors, so I'm certain I'm unfamiliar with many major authorities. From what I know, the credentials of the contributors are impeccable. While I learned early in my elementary school years that an encyclopedia was always a good place to start a research project, it was often not enough for first class work, but there were always things an encyclopedia could do which no other reference could do quite as well. And, this volume does a great job on those tasks.

I have purchased all four of the IVP Dictionaries for the New Testament: two in print version (Dictionary of New Testament Background (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series) and Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)), and two in Kindle version (Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series) and Dictionary of Paul and His Letters (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)). I am thoroughly pleased with the content in all four books. However, the Kindle versions are a big disappointment. I've purchased Kindle books in the past and have been very pleased with them. I love the search function and I thought it might be particularly helpful for reference books like these. However, it's a little nightmarish. I'll try to spell the problems out in a list:

1. There are hardly any hyperlinks in the text. The Table of Contents will only take you to the first article under "A" or to the list of article entries. The list of article entries is not hyperlinked.
2. To find a given article, therefore you need to use the search function, but in book with this many words, the search lists come back too long. For example, if I want to look up the article on "Christology" I enter it as a search term, I get back a list of 100 items which I then have to

dig through to find the one for the article. That is, every article that has the word "Christology" in it comes back with no easy way to sort them out from the one article on "Christology."³ The Kindle search function is not intelligent. If I want to qualify my search by entering more than one word, it will only find two contiguous words. It won't find anything that has both words in the same sentence or on the same page.⁴

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