

successors. (For further discussion of this point and of the inscription just referred to, see G. N. Stanton, *Jesus and Gospel* [Cambridge: CUP, 2004], pp. 35–46.)

Dr Witulski's attempt to defend the 'south Galatia' theory without recourse to Acts, and on the basis of his claim that Gal. 4:8–20 is an interpolation, is unsuccessful. But his refutation of the 'north Galatia' theory will stand the test of time, as will his insistence that the Roman imperial cult must be taken seriously as part of the religious and social setting in which the Galatian Christians heard Paul's letter.

GRAHAM STANTON

*The Galatians Debate. Contemporary Issues in Rhetorical and Historical Interpretation.* Edited by MARK D. NANOS. Pp. lvi + 517. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2002. ISBN 1 56563 468 3. £24.95.

THIS carefully edited selection of influential essays on Galatians is most welcome. Dr Nanos has edited 23 essays by prominent specialists, nearly all of which have been written in the last 20 years. Nineteen essays have been published before, three are closely related to sections of the writer's books. Only Nils Dahl's fine essay is published here for the first time. Inclusion of an edited version of Dahl's 1973 paper presented to the SBL Paul Seminar is particularly welcome; some scholars have had access to copies of the original version, while many others would like to have been able to read it.

Dr Nanos's lengthy introduction summarizes the essays one by one. A few of the summaries are clearer than the original essays! No attempt is made to offer a critical appraisal of the chosen essays, and in only a few cases is there an indication of the extent to which the essays have been persuasive. In part I, eight essays on rhetorical and epistolary approaches are included. In part II, seven essays discuss the autobiographical narratives from varied perspectives. In part III, there are eight essays on the Galatian situation(s). The glossary will assist many readers to cope with the technical terms (and jargon) in some of the essays. The 50-page Bibliography will be an invaluable resource for specialists and for research students.

Teachers and students alike should note that the focus of this handsomely produced book is narrow. The chosen topics have been prominent in recent discussion, but there are many

important aspects of Paul's letter to the Galatian churches which are not covered. Perhaps Dr Nanos will now edit a set of essays on topics such as Paul's use of the Old Testament, his teaching on the Spirit, his attitude to the Mosaic law, and his understanding of 'the law of Christ'.

GRAHAM STANTON

*I and II Timothy and Titus. A Commentary.* By RAYMOND F. COLLINS. Pp. xxiv + 408. (The New Testament Library.) Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN 0 664 22247 1. £30.

THIS is an excellent commentary. It combines a distinctive point of view with a balanced account of other approaches to the three Pastoral Epistles and gives, along with the author's own opinion, the views of others on exegetical problems.

In antiquity, in correspondence with their superscriptions, the epistles were attributed to Paul himself. But he did not write them. Dr Collins takes seriously the term 'Pastoral Epistles' which has long been applied to the three letters. He refers regularly to the author, whose name we do not know, as 'The Pastor'. Behind him stands the figure of Paul himself, viewed rather in his pastoral than in his evangelistic role. It is Paul as pastor whom the author represents and Paul's pastoral work that he commends to Timothy and Titus as their examples. He means to pass on the Pauline pastoral ideal to Timothy and Titus, and through them to the churches in which they are leading figures. This intention makes sense of pseudonymity; the intention is to convey the Pauline tradition to a new generation of Christian leaders and people. The epistolary form corresponds with this. Paul writes that he has left his protégé behind (Timothy in Ephesus, 1 Tim. 1:3; Titus in Crete, Titus 1:5); indeed, he has left them in death. He regrets that his seeing them again will be delayed; indeed, it will be delayed till the Parousia. Dr Collins does not need the hypothesis (elaborated by P. N. Harrison) of fragments of genuine letters worked into the new composition. The Pastor's scheme needs these 'historical' glimpses, and he therefore supplies them. (The reader may, however, feel that there is still something to be said for a simplified version of Harrison's view.) The picture of the deserted Paul (2 Tim. 1:15; 4:15) adds something to the apostle's heroic stature and could have been composed for that purpose,