

Paul's Letter to the Philippians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary

Ben Witherington III

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Paul's Letter to the Philippians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary Ben Witherington III *Interprets Paul's letter in light of its rhetorical content and cultural context*

Skeptical of the trend among many biblical scholars to analyze Paul's short, affectionate letter to the Philippians in light of Greco-Roman letter-writing conventions, Ben Witherington instead looks at Philippians as a masterful piece of long-distance *oratory* — an extension of Paul's oral speech, dictated to a scribe and meant to be read aloud to its recipients. Witherington examines Philippians in light of Greco-Roman rhetorical conventions, identifying Paul's purpose, highlighting his main points and his persuasive strategies, and considering how his original audience would have heard and received Paul's message.



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