

BRIAN S. ROSNER

# Greed *as* Idolatry

*The Origin and Meaning  
of a Pauline Metaphor*

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# Greed As Idolatry The Origin And Meaning Of A Pauline Metaphor

**Sigurd Grindheim**



## **Greed As Idolatry The Origin And Meaning Of A Pauline Metaphor:**

Greed as Idolatry Brian S. Rosner, 2007-08-28 What are the origin and meaning of the words greed is idolatry found in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5 In what sense are the greedy guilty of idolatry Many different answers have been given to this question throughout the history of interpretation In fact a consensus exists on only one score that the expression serves to vilify greed Brian Rosner ably takes on the challenge of interpretation by tackling the phrase as a metaphor structuring his argument around an intriguing comparison to mountain climbing From this vantage point he offers a thorough history of interpretation of the phrase including a study of the origin of the concept of idolatrous greed in biblical and Jewish sources Rosner concludes that the comparison of greed with idolatry teaches that to desire to acquire and keep for oneself more money and material things is an attack on God's exclusive right to human love trust and obedience With this work comes a stunning fresh understanding of familiar terms greed idolatry and even God challenging both the church as a whole and individual believers to consider the far ranging implications of our materialistic world The first full length study of this intriguing Pauline expression Greed as Idolatry has profound implications for theological ethics today **"Conception, Reception, and the Spirit"**

J Gordon McConville, Lloyd K Pietersen, 2016-07-28 A number of distinguished biblical scholars and theologians come together in this volume to honour the work of Andrew T Lincoln Conception Reception and the Spirit reflects Andrew Lincoln's lifelong interest in Christian origins the reception of biblical texts in believing and scholarly communities and the embodiment of the Gospel in believing communities made possible by the Spirit Here scholars converse with Lincoln's work engaging with his monographs Born of a Virgin and Truth on Trial These essays examine a wide range of topics such as N T Wright's exploration of demonic politics in John and the significance of wine to the Holy Spirit in Ephesians by Lloyd K Pietersen These theological interpretations go so far as to question the foundations that make New Testament theology what it is today with experts like Loveday Alexander and John Goldingay confronting sexuality spirituality ethics and memory in Lincoln's work with sensitivity and nuance Fallen Christopher W. Morgan, Robert A.

Peterson, 2013-09-30 From marital infidelity to global war the world is obviously broken leaving people desperate to find an explanation for our universal sin problem In the latest addition to the Theology in Community series Christopher Morgan and Robert Peterson have assembled an interdisciplinary team of evangelical thinkers to explore the biblical doctrine of sin from a variety of angles Among other contributors popular scholar D A Carson discusses the contemporary significance of sin seasoned professor Paul House details sin in the Old Testament law prophets and writings and New Testament expert Douglas Moo explores sin from Paul's vantage point This team of top notch scholars offers modern readers a comprehensive overview of this oft neglected biblical theme so that readers might learn to live better in a sinful world Part of the Theology in Community series **Wealth in Ancient Ephesus and the First Letter to Timothy** Gary G. Hoag, 2015-10-16 Scholars are divided in their views about the teachings on riches in 1 Timothy Evidence that has been largely overlooked in NT

scholarship appears in Ephesiaca by Xenophon of Ephesus and suggests that the topic be revisited Recently dated to the mid first century C E Ephesiaca brings to life what is known from ancient sources about the social setting and cultural rules of the wealthy in Ephesus and provides details that enhance our knowledge of life and society in that place and time In this volume Hoag introduces Ephesiaca and employs a socio rhetorical methodology to explore it alongside other ancient evidence and five passages in 1 Timothy 2 9 15 3 1 13 6 1 2a 6 2b 10 and 6 17 19 His findings augment our modern conception of the Sitz im Leben of the wealthy in Ephesus Additionally because Ephesiaca contains some rare terms and themes that are found in 1 Timothy this groundbreaking research offers fresh insight for biblical reading and interpretation

**Wasted Evangelism** Chip M. Anderson, 2013-10-04 What is the relationship between the gospel and the church's responsibility toward the poor Can social action be evangelism Wasted Evangelism is an exploration in the Gospel of Mark on the subject of evangelism and social action A proclamation centered definition of evangelism based on the etymology of the word evangelize and a few isolated proof texts is devoid of much of the biblical content that Mark offers to us through his Gospel detaching the concept of evangelism from the narrative meaning that Mark gives to the gospel of Jesus Christ In Wasted Evangelism Chip Anderson develops an exegetically based narrative understanding of biblical evangelism which according to Mark's Gospel includes God's care for the economically vulnerable and his concern for the issues of poverty The studies gathered in this volume propose that social action should not be considered a separate distinct responsibility for the church but is rather vital a component of evangelism A close examination of Mark's Gospel and the biblical texts associated with idolatry poverty and justice provides an opportunity for church leadership to rethink the evangelistic activities of their churches and to reconsider what it means to engage their surrounding communities as agents of God's kingdom

*Christian Ethics (Revised Edition)* Wayne Grudem, 2024-09-18 What Does the Bible Teach about How to Live in Today's World How should Christians live when the surrounding culture is increasingly hostile to Christian moral values Granted the Bible is our guide but how can we know if we are interpreting it rightly with regard to ethical questions about wealth and poverty marriage and divorce birth control abortion euthanasia homosexuality ethical business practices environmental stewardship and dozens of other issues And on a very practical level how can we know God's will in the ordinary decisions of life To address questions like these Wayne Grudem author of the bestselling book Systematic Theology draws on 40 years of teaching classes in ethics to write this wide ranging introduction to biblical moral reasoning organized according to the structure of the Ten Commandments He issues a challenging call for Christians to live lives of personal holiness and offers a vision of the Christian life that is full of joy and blessing through living each day in a way that is pleasing to God Written by Wayne Grudem Bestselling author of Systematic Theology and the What the Bible Says About series Biblical and Applicable Teaches readers how to protect 7 central tenets of God's law God's honor human authority life marriage property truth and purity of heart Accessible An ideal textbook for Christian college and seminary ethics classes with straightforward language

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Clinton E. Arnold, 2025-03-11 Over 2 million copies sold in The Word Biblical Commentary series This commentary series delivers the best in biblical scholarship from the leading scholars of our day who share a commitment to Scripture as divine revelation It emphasizes a thorough analysis of textual linguistic structural and theological evidence resulting in judicious and balanced insight into the meanings of the text in the framework of biblical theology These widely acclaimed commentaries serve as exceptional resources for the professional theologian and instructor the seminary or university student the working minister and everyone concerned with building theological understanding from a solid base of biblical scholarship Overview of Commentary Organization Introduction covers issues pertaining to the whole book including context date authorship composition interpretive issues purpose and theology Pericope Bibliography a helpful resource containing the most important works that pertain to each particular pericope Translation the author's own translation of the biblical text reflecting the end result of exegesis and attending to Hebrew and Greek idiomatic usage of words phrases and tenses yet in reasonably good English Notes the author's notes to the translation that address any textual variants grammatical forms syntactical constructions basic meanings of words and problems of translation Form Structure Setting a discussion of redaction genre sources and tradition as they concern the origin of the pericope its canonical form and its relation to the biblical and extra biblical contexts in order to illuminate the structure and character of the pericope Rhetorical or compositional features important to understanding the passage are also introduced here Comment verse by verse interpretation of the text and dialogue with other interpreters engaging with current opinion and scholarly research Explanation brings together all the results of the discussion in previous sections to expose the meaning and intention of the text at several levels 1 within the context of the book itself 2 its meaning in the OT or NT 3 its place in the entire canon 4 theological relevance to broader OT or NT issues General Bibliography occurring at the end of each volume this extensive bibliography contains all sources used anywhere in the commentary      *The Letter to the Hebrews* Sigurd Grindheim, 2023-11-28 What does the Letter to the Hebrews have to say to Christians today A compelling exhortation to hold true to the faith in the face of adversity A sermon full of iconic imagery and Old Testament allusions A signal work of theology in the New Testament Above all the Letter to the Hebrews proclaims the high priesthood of Jesus Christ Yet readers may find this central theme difficult to discern given the epistle's complexity and long history of interpretation In this Pillar commentary Sigurd Grindheim richly illuminates the Letter to the Hebrews explaining difficult texts offering a coherent reading and paying careful attention to linguistic features and historical context all while focusing on its relevance to modern readers Grindheim clearly and comprehensively addresses major issues including authorship date canonicity formal qualities and important themes Following his thorough introduction he explains each line of the text and its significance for believers today Grindheim's commentary offers pastors students and scholars the clarity and fresh insights they want in their

scriptural study     **The Letter to the Colossians** Scot McKnight,2018-02-26 The Letter to the Colossians offers a compelling vision of the Christian life its claims transcend religion and bring politics culture spirituality power ethnicity and more into play Delving deeply into the message of Colossians this exegetical and theological commentary by Scot McKnight will be welcomed by preachers teachers and students everywhere     Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics Joel B. Green, Jacqueline Lapsley, Rebekah Miles, Allen Verhey, 2011-11 Leading scholars from the fields of biblical studies and ethics provide a one stop reference book on the vital relationship between Scripture and ethics     Best Bible Books John Glynn, Michael H. Burer, 2019-03-21 There are thousands of excellent resources in the field of New Testament studies But which tools are best for sermon preparation topical study research or classroom study In Best Bible Books the authors review and recommend hundreds of books saving pastors students and scholars time effort and money Glynn and Burer examine commentaries on every book of the New Testament describing their approach format and usability they then rank them on a scale of good better and best Other chapters survey special studies for each New Testament book as well as books in related disciplines such as historical background language resources and hermeneutics Also included are helpful chapters on building a must have personal library and identifying books that comprise the ultimate New Testament commentary collection This is an indispensable resource for any serious student of the Bible     **Paul's Witness to Formative Early Christian Instruction** Benjamin A. Edsall, 2014-04-08 Benjamin A Edsall re opens the old quest for the preaching and teaching of the early Church through a new approach that draws on ancient communication practices Given that ancient communicators relied explicitly on what they presumed their interlocutors to know the author reconstructs early Christian instruction through Pauline appeals to previous knowledge both explicit and implicit     **Shadow Sophia** Celia E. Deane-Drummond, 2021-02-25 Why do humans who seem to be exemplars of virtue also have the capacity to act in atrocious ways What are the roots of tendencies for sin and evil A popular assumption is that it is our animalistic natures that are responsible for human immorality and sin while our moral nature curtails and contains such tendencies through human powers of freedom and higher reason This book challenges such assumptions as being far too simplistic Through a careful engagement with evolutionary and psychological literature Celia Deane Drummond argues that tendencies towards vice are more often than not distortions of the very virtues that are capable of making us good After beginning with Augustine s classic theory of original sin the book probes the philosophical implications of sin s origins in dialogue with the philosophy of Paul Ricoeur Different vices are treated in both individual and collective settings in keeping with a multispecies approach Areas covered include selfishness pride violence anger injustice greed envy gluttony deception lying lust despair anxiety and sloth The work of Thomas Aquinas helps to illuminate and clarify much of this discussion on vice including those vices which are more distinctive for human persons in community with other beings Such an approach amounts to a search for the shadow side of human nature shadow sophia Facing that shadow is part of a fuller understanding of what makes us human

and thus this book is a contribution to both theological anthropology and theological ethics      Temple Purity in 1-2 Corinthians Yulin Liu, 2013 Paul's view of the church as the temple and his concern about its purity in 1-2 Corinthians has traditionally been interpreted from the perspective of a Jewish background. However, Yulin Liu reveals that the pagans were very aware of temple purity when visiting some temples in the Greco-Roman world and the purification concerns of three pagan temples in Corinth are documented in his work. The author affirms that the Gentile believers among the Corinthian community were able to grasp Paul's message because of it. Also, Liu investigates Paul's use of temple purity to address the necessity of unity, holiness, and faithfulness of the Corinthian Christians in an eschatological sense. The separation of God's people from profane matters actually points to a new exodus and a progressive consummation of the construction of the eschatological temple community.

**Preaching Ephesians** Lynn H. Cohick, 2025-07-22 Ephesians speaks to our deepest questions about God, the redemptive plan of God written from ages past, now revealed the work of Christ complete and effective now and for eternity, the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives and build a community. The clear message of God's unfathomable grace establishes the believer's hope and undergirds the call for faithful living. Down through the centuries, the clarion call to unity that permeates Ephesians has inspired and challenged the faithful to live out the promises found in Christ. This short letter speaks to the twenty-first century's longing for friendship and wholeness.

**Managing Financial Resources in Late Antiquity** Gerasimos Merianos, George Gotsis, 2018-03-21 This book examines the views of Greek Church Fathers on hoarding, saving, and management of economic surplus and their development primarily in urban centres of the Eastern Mediterranean from the late first to the fifth century. The study shows how the approaches of Greek Fathers such as Clement of Alexandria, Basil of Caesarea, John Chrysostom, Isidore of Pelusium, and Theodoret of Cyrrhus to hoarding and saving intertwined with stances toward the moral and social obligations of the wealthy. It also demonstrates how these Fathers responded to conditions and practices in urban economic environments characterized by sharp inequalities. Their attitudes reflect the gradual widening of Christian congregations but also the consequences of the socio-economic evolution of the late antique Eastern Roman Empire. Among the issues discussed in the book are the justification of wealth, alternatives to hoarding, and the reception of patristic views by contemporaries.

**Living to the Praise of God's Glory** Mark A. Simon, 2021-05-24 The letter to the Ephesians is missional to its core. It effectively exhorts its readers to understand, support, and participate in God's mission to rescue humanity and all creation from the damage and distortion of sin and so bring about a renewed creation filled with God's glorious fullness. Working at the creative intersection of biblical studies and missiology, this study adopts a missional hermeneutic to overcome the scholarly neglect of mission in Ephesians. The book systematically explores each passage in Ephesians, delving into the characterization of God and his mission, allusions to Old Testament missional texts in Ephesians, and the portrayal of the apostle Paul and believers as participants in God's mission. A multifaceted vision of mission emerges, which encompasses God's actions in salvation history, the church as mediator of God's

glory reconciliation and grace to the nations prayer ethical witness and verbal proclamation of the gospel Reading Ephesians through this missional lens yields fresh insights into its purpose and context and the richness of its portrait of mission

**Keep Yourselves From Idols** Terry Griffith,2003-03-01 Challenging gnosticizing interpretations of the letter Terry Griffith explores how the polemic against idols was variously used in Jewish and Christian circles to define self identity and the limits of community He shows that the rhetoric of 1 John is not polemical but pastoral directed at confirming Johannine Christians in their fundamental confession of faith and preventing further defections of Jewish Christians back to Judaism Griffith argues that the christological focus in 1 John concerns the identification of Jesus as the Messiah and that the ending of the letter both contributes to the author s overall pastoral strategy and sheds light on the issues of sin and christology that are raised in this letter

*Representing Avarice in Late Renaissance France* Jonathan Patterson,2015-01-22 Why did people talk so much about avarice in late Renaissance France nearly a century before Moli re s famous comedy *L Avare* As wars and economic crises ravaged France on the threshold of modernity avarice was said to be flourishing as never before Yet by the late sixteenth century a number of French writers would argue that in some contexts avaricious behaviour was not straightforwardly sinful or harmful Considerations of social rank gender object pursued time and circumstance led some to question age old beliefs Traditionally reviled groups rapacious usurers greedy lawyers miserly fathers covetous women might still exhibit unmistakable signs of avarice but perhaps not invariably in an age of shifting social economic and intellectual values Across a large diverse corpus of French texts Jonathan Patterson shows how a range of flexible genres nourished by humanism tended to offset traditional condemnation of avarice and avarices with innovative mitigating perspectives arising from subjective experience In such writings an avaricious disposition could be re described as something less vicious excusable or even expedient In this word history of avarice close readings of well known authors Marguerite de Navarre Ronsard Montaigne and of their lesser known contemporaries are connected to broader socio economic developments of the late French Renaissance c 1540 1615 The final chapter situates key themes in relation to Moli re s *L Avare* As such

*Representing Avarice in Late Renaissance France* newly illuminates debates about avarice within broader cultural preoccupations surrounding gender enrichment and status in early modern France

**Paul and the Rhetoric of Reversal in 1 Corinthians** Matthew R. Malcolm,2013-07-25 The first letter to the Corinthians is one of the most discussed biblical books in New Testament scholarship today Despite this there has been no consensus on its arrangement and central theme in particular why the topic of the resurrection was left until the end of the letter and what its theological significance would have been to the Corinthian church Matthew R Malcolm analyses this rhetoric of reversal examines the unity of the epistle and addresses key problems behind particular chapters He argues that while Jewish and Greco Roman resources contribute significantly to the overall arrangement of the letter Paul writes as one whose identity and rhetorical resources of structure and imagery have been transformed by his preaching or kerygma of Christ The study will be of interest to students of New



Testament studies Pauline theology and early Christianity

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