

Contents

Preface	19
Chief abbreviations	21
Introduction	24
1. Survey of selected monographs	27
<i>Introduction</i>	27
<i>Earlier voices of protest</i>	28
Claude G. Montefiore	
George Foot Moore	
Albert Schweitzer	
W. D. Davies	
H. J. Schoeps	
Krister Stendahl	
<i>Development theories</i>	33
John Drane	

<i>Circumcision means abandonment of the faith</i>	
The law summed up in a single commandment	
Exhortation to walk by the Spirit	
Bear one another's burdens and fulfil the law of Christ	
Summary	107
The nature and function of the law	
<i>The law is not of faith</i>	
<i>The law does not annul the promise</i>	
<i>The law cannot make alive</i>	
<i>The law as paidagōgos</i>	
Justification	
<i>Justification by faith in Christ</i>	
<i>Justification and the hearing of faith</i>	
<i>No changes to the means of justification</i>	
<i>Justification rests upon redemption</i>	
<i>Faith in Christ is incompatible with reliance on works</i>	
<i>Justification by faith is incompatible with covenantal nomism</i>	
The law and the believer	
<i>Freedom from the law</i>	
<i>No rebuilding what was torn down</i>	
<i>Learning from the law</i>	
<i>The law fulfilled in one word</i>	
<i>Those led by the Spirit are not under the law</i>	
<i>Fulfilling the law of Christ</i>	
3. 1 Corinthians: the regulation of freedom	115
Introduction	115
The background to 1 Corinthians	115
A case of incest	117
Judgment pronounced	

The law provides a paradigm for purity of life	
The law provides a paradigm for excommunication	
The matter of litigation	119
You were . . . justified	
Questions about marriage	121
Obedience to the command of the Lord	
Obeying the commandments of God	
Observing the rule laid down in all the churches	
Things offered to idols	125
The law provides a paradigm for financial support	
The command of the Lord and financial support	
The law and Paul's accommodation to Jews and Gentiles	
<i>Under the law of Christ</i>	
<i>Emulating Paul's practice of accommodation</i>	
<i>Was Paul inconsistent?</i>	
The law and Israel's experience in the wilderness	
Women praying and prophesying	136
The law provides a paradigm for human relationships	
Appeal to the universal practice of the churches	
Speaking in tongues	138
The 'law' as a paradigm for the effect of tongues	
Appeal to the command of the Lord	
Women keeping silence	140
The law provides a paradigm for submission	
Appeal to the universal practice of the churches	
The resurrection	142
The defeat of death	

The power of sin is the law	
Summary	143
The nature and function of the law	
<i>The law as the power of sin</i>	
Justification	
<i>A central part of the experience of grace</i>	
The law and the believer	
<i>The law as a paradigm for Christian behaviour</i>	
<i>Freedom from the law</i>	
<i>Obeying the commandments of God</i>	
<i>Observing the commands of Christ</i>	
<i>Following the universal practices of the churches</i>	
 4. 2 Corinthians: authentic ministry, the law and justification	149
<i>Introduction</i>	149
<i>The background to 2 Corinthians</i>	149
The course of events	
Paul's opponents in 2 Corinthians	
<i>Two ministries compared and contrasted</i>	152
Negative functions of the law	
A positive function of the law	
Justification	
<i>Abstention from idolatrous worship</i>	155
The law provides a paradigm for the experience of God	
<i>The collection</i>	156
The law provides a paradigm for equality	
<i>Suffering, the mark of a true apostle</i>	156

Observance of the law not incumbent upon believers	
Summary	158
The nature and function of the law	
<i>The law brings condemnation and death</i>	
<i>The temporary function of the law</i>	
<i>The law as witness to Christ</i>	
Justification	
<i>A fundamental aspect of the ministry of the new covenant</i>	
The law and the believer	
<i>The law as a paradigm for Christian behaviour</i>	
<i>Freedom from the law</i>	
 5. Romans 1 – 5: justification apart from the law	162
<i>Introduction</i>	162
<i>The purpose of Romans</i>	163
A statement of the argument of 1:16 – 15:13	
Relating the argument to the implied purpose	
<i>Response to a situation in the Roman church</i>	
<i>Related to Paul's apostolic career</i>	
<i>Emerging from both the above</i>	
<i>Paul's theme: the gospel and the righteousness of God</i>	169
The righteousness of God revealed in the gospel	
A righteousness by faith	
<i>Paul's argument: no distinctions in sin or judgment</i>	173
Human failure depicted with allusions to the law	
Justification for the doers	
<i>Is judgment according to works?</i>	
<i>Did the Gentiles keep what the law requires?</i>	
The Jews and the law	

In defence of the righteousness of God

Has God abandoned his faithfulness to Israel?

Scriptural proof of universal sinfulness

Excursus: the meaning of 'the works of the law' in Romans

Paul's argument: no distinctions in the matter of salvation 187

The heart of Paul's gospel

The meaning of the term 'the righteousness of God'

The manifestation of the righteousness of God

The witness of the law and the prophets

The faithfulness of Christ and the righteousness of God

The faithfulness of Christ and his atoning sacrifice

The exclusion of boasting

Upholding the law

The case of Abraham

Justified by faith without works

Justified by faith without circumcision

The promise realized by faith without the law

Justification depends upon the Christ event

The fruits of justification by faith

The humanity-wide implications of Christ's death

Christ's obedience and believers' justification

The law given that sin might be reckoned

The law given to increase the trespass

6. Romans 6 – 15: answering objections and explaining implications 204

Introduction 204

Answering objections: morality and the law 204

Objections to Paul's thesis: moral standards

Objections to Paul's thesis: status of the law

Freedom from the law

The law and sin

The law and new life in the Spirit

The hope of believers

The emotive climax to Paul's argument so far

Answering objections: God's promises to Israel 221

The privileges of Israel

The pursuit of righteousness and the law

A striking paradox

Zeal without knowledge

The testimony of the law to faith

A special way of salvation for Israel?

The ethical implications of Paul's gospel 236

Love of fellow believers

Tolerance of the practice of other believers

Summary 239

The law and the Jewish people

Jewish advantage: possession of the law

The failure of the Jews despite their advantage

They pursued the law for righteousness

The works of the law

The nature and function of the law

The strength and weakness of the law

The function of the law

Limited time of the law's jurisdiction

Justification by faith for all

Revealed in the gospel apart from the law

To be received by faith

Based on the work of Christ

<i>Grounded in God's election and calling</i>	
<i>What justification involves</i>	
<i>No Sonderweg for the Jews</i>	
The law and the believer	
<i>Freedom from the law</i>	
<i>Fulfilling the law</i>	
<i>Observing the law for the sake of the weak</i>	
<i>Learning from the law</i>	
7. Law and justification in the other Pauline letters	250
Introduction	250
1 Thessalonians	250
Observing the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ	
The wrath of God has come upon the Jews	
2 Thessalonians	253
Keeping the charge given in the name of the Lord	
Philippians	254
'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling'	
We put no confidence in the flesh	
As to righteousness under the law, blameless	
Two kinds of righteousness	
Colossians	258
Christ the end of human traditions	
The cross and the cancelling of the <i>cheirographon</i>	
Ephesians	261
Salvation by faith and not by works	
The abolition of the law	
The first commandment with a promise	

1 Timothy	265
The law is not for 'the just'	
The justification of a notorious sinner	
The law provides a paradigm for financial support	
Titus	267
Justification by grace, not by deeds of righteousness	
2 Timothy	269
Saved by grace, not by works	
The positive role of the law	
Summary	270
Two kinds of righteousness	
As to the law, blameless	
The abolition of the law	
Christ removes the human sense of guilt	
The role of the law	
Paul and the Jews	
8. General conclusions	273
A brief overview	273
Galatians	
1 Corinthians	
2 Corinthians	
Romans	
The other Pauline letters	
A summary	278
The nature and function of the law	
<i>The temporary role of the law</i>	
<i>The law does not annul the promise</i>	

The law cannot give life
The law brings condemnation
The law as a witness to the gospel
The law inferior to the promise
The law is holy, just, good and spiritual
The law is the unwilling ally of sin

Justification

Justification has always been, and still is, 'by faith'
Justification rests upon the redemptive action of Christ
Justification and inclusion among the people of God
Justification is incompatible with legalism and nomism
Justification is grounded in election and calling
The experience of justification
The place of justification in Paul's theology

The law and the believer

Freedom from the law
Learning from the law
The fulfilment of the law in the lives of believers
The law of Christ
Accommodation to those who live under the law
Keeping the commandments of God
Obedience to the commands of Christ
Observing the rules laid down in all the churches

The law and the Jewish people

Problems

The nature and function of the law

Ambiguous use of the term 'law'
Contradictory statements about the origin of the law
Problematic statements about law and sin
Contradictory statements about human ability to keep the law

287

The power of sin attributed to both Adam and the law
The law promised life, but lacks the power to provide it
A dramatic act needed to terminate a temporary expedient

Justification

Justification was merely a polemic doctrine
Contradictory statements about justification

The law and the believer

Inconsistencies in the matter of freedom from the law
Later letters correct mistakes in earlier ones
Inconsistency in the matter of accommodation
Jewish laws replaced by ecclesiastical practices

The law and the Jewish people

The place of the law in Jewish soteriology

Law and justification today

297

The experience of justification
No unnecessary barriers for converts
No unnecessary burdens for believers
The paradox of Christian living
Reading the Old Testament as a Christian
Accommodation
Robust holiness

Bibliography

300

Index of authors

319