

view which he holds to. In the book, the author appears to bypass or simply overlook this view. I hope that in subsequent works he will revisit this view in comparison to his and provide an in-depth biblical critique of it (pp. 41–60).

Sixth, while the volume is generally well-edited, I identified the following typographical errors: *fulfillment* instead of *fulfilling* (p. 200); *John 17:6* instead of *Rev 17:6* (p. 209); *GThe Great Controversy* instead of *The Great Controversy* (p. 223, n. 48).

In summary, the book is logically organized and exegetically sound. It is recommended not only for students of the New Testament, interested in the Book of Revelation, but also for non-specialist audiences, including Christians, Muslims and others who want to learn more about the topic and understand it from a biblical perspective.

Michael Ikechukwu Oluikpe

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, PHILIPPINES

---

*Persuading the Galatians: A Text-Centered Rhetorical Analysis of a Pauline Letter*, by D. Francois Tolmie. WUNT II/190. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005. Pp. xii + 207. ISBN 3-16-148455-X. Paper. € 54.00.

Francois Tolmie received his D.Th. in New Testament studies in 1992; in 2004 he earned his Ph.D. in Greek from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Currently, he is Professor of New Testament at the Faculty of Theology of the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The book is a revised version of his doctoral dissertation, presented at the same university, and represents the first systematic attempt to reconstruct Paul's rhetorical strategy in the Epistle to the Galatians in a different way, namely, by concentrating on the letter itself, as a means of developing the most coherent categories of describing the way in which Paul tried to persuade his audience.

The study is divided into three chapters. In the introduction, the author begins by clarifying the meaning of the word "rhetorical" to be used in his study. He makes it clear that the term in the narrow sense indicates an approach which aims to analyze the ways in which a text is used in order to persuade its audience. Chapter 1 has two parts: first, it includes an evaluation of rhetorical studies of Galatians and, second, a description of the approach to be followed in his study. Tolmie begins with an overview of the pioneering and well-known study of H. D. Betz, who claimed that the epistle must be regarded as an example of an apologetic letter. It presupposes the fictitious situation of a court of law, and as such, it constitutes an exam-

ple of forensic rhetoric and must be analyzed in terms of a classical rhetorical system. Tolmie notes that the rigid (and sometimes imposed) application of this system has resulted in a mixed reaction by scholarship. On the one hand, it has been acknowledged the skillful way in which Betz applies the forensic rhetorical system to the letter as well as his grammatical, lexical, historical and theological abilities reflected in his commentary on the text. But, on the other hand, many commentators are reluctant to accept the rigid way in which Betz imposes the model to the letter. Tolmie cites among them H. Brismead, U. Rugg, H. Hübner, J. Becker, J. Hester, and T. Martin (pp. 4, 5, 6) who basically agree with Betz' proposal about Galatians as a forensic defense speech with slight modifications, and those like D. E. Aune, G. W. Hansen, and J. Schoon-Janßen who consider Galatians a mixture of forensic and deliberative rhetoric.

There is a third perspective, however, to Betz's proposal on the rhetorical genre of Galatians which rejects Betz's aims and suggests that Galatians must be classified as a deliberative oratory. Among those who hold this view Tolmie cites G. A. Kennedy, R. G. Hall, J. Smit, and W. B. Russell. Two possibilities are usually followed in this perspective: Either modern rhetorical theories are applied to the letter, or the argumentation is analyzed strictly in terms of a text-centered approach in which case the letter itself serves as the starting point for the analysis instead of applying a rhetorical model to the letter (p. 19).

Tolmie proceeds to explain the approach he is going to follow in his study. He does not choose any specific rhetorical model (ancient or modern) to apply to the letter. He decides to reconstruct Paul's rhetorical strategy from the text itself, using the letter as the starting-point. His study is a text-centered descriptive analysis of the way in which Paul attempts to persuade the Galatians (p. 28). Tolmie uses a minimal theoretical framework to guide the analysis. The general guideline in this study is the identification of what the author calls "the dominant rhetorical strategy" (p. 28). In analyzing a particular section of the letter Tolmie tries to answer the following two questions: first, "How can one describe Paul's primary rhetorical objective in this specific section?" and second, "How does he attempt to achieve this objective?" Once the dominant rhetorical strategy is identified it is then followed by a detailed analysis of that particular section.

The second chapter consists of the rhetorical analysis of the epistle to Galatians using the text-centered approach. This chapter is divided into eighteen sections also called "phases" (p. 29) which sometimes overlap with the demarcated sections/paragraphs as they have been delineated in commentaries and other studies. However, the author recognizes that, in some instances, there are differences. He points out the principle he uses in demar-

cating the sections. The author calls it "*a change in Paul's rhetorical strategic*" (p. 29 [emphasis in original]). It is the most important guideline for demarcating the various sections (p. 29). Whenever a definite change in Paul's dominant rhetorical strategy is detected, a new section is demarcated. Tolmie argues that "the reason for using this notion as a guideline is that it enables one to divide the overall rhetorical strategy in the letter into smaller 'phases'" (p. 29). Thus, each of the eighteen sections is delimited in such a way that it represents one particular phase in the apostle's overall rhetorical strategy in the letter; a strategy that is different from that of the other phases immediately before and after it.

In chapter three the author presents the results of his investigation. One of the important issues he addresses in the conclusion is the organization of the argument of the letter as a whole. In this sense the author gives consideration to two issues, first, the overall organization of the letter, and, second, the wide variety of arguments that Paul uses in the letter (p. 233). Tolmie also draws attention to two other issues: the first is Paul's use of two techniques which scholars thus far have apparently overlooked. The first is called "making events transparent for the situation in Galatia" (p. 233) in Galatians 2:4, 5 (...ἵνα ἡμᾶς καταδουλώσουσιν... ἵνα ἡ ἀλήθεια τοῦ εὐαγγελίου διαμείνῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς), and in 2:11–21. The second technique is called "rerouting the attention of the audience" (p. 233), and it refers to the fact that Paul creates the impression that he will address a certain issue which he knows is of importance for the readers, but then, in fact, he discusses something that fits his own strategy better (3:19–21). Tolmie also presents a list of seven points (p. 234) that could have undermined Paul's argumentative strategy.

Following this, Tolmie focuses on the most important issue in the chapter, namely, the way Paul argues in the Epistle to the Galatians, in other words, the overall organization of the argument as a whole. The eighteen phases identified previously are reduced to six basic rhetorical objectives: (1) divine authorization (pp. 235–36); (2) Paul's gospel as the true gospel (p. 237); (3) the inferiority of the law (p. 238); (4) spiritual slavery/spiritual freedom (pp. 238–40); (5) the practical outcome (p. 240); and (6) the final refutation. These rhetorical objectives tend to organize the argument of the letter as a whole in a way different from that followed in most rhetorical studies (including Betz's, p. 242). Another issue the author pays attention to in this chapter is the wide variety of arguments used by Paul in his letter within which the argument of the divine authorization constitutes the backbone of Paul's rhetorical strategy (p. 244).

The author includes a useful appendix of some rhetorical techniques employed in the Epistle to the Galatians which are listed by order of first

appearance. His useful bibliography contains almost one third of non-English sources which is a possible indicator of the scope of his work.

Francois Tolmie's study has greatly benefited me. Since my first reading of Betz's commentary on Galatians I had the impression that the imposition of classical rhetorical models upon the biblical text does not allow the text to speak for itself. Tolmie's study has confirmed my suspicion and, at the same time, opened a window to see the text from a totally different rhetorical perspective. In his study Tolmie has reached the objective of reconstructing Paul's rhetorical strategy in the Epistle to the Galatians without imposing any external model upon the text. In this sense his study is an outstanding one. It should constitute an obligatory reading assignment for those interested in the rhetorical approach to the biblical text and more specifically in the Pauline epistles.

Héctor O. Martín Fuentes

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, PHILIPPINES