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Book Review

Justification and Variegated Nomism. Volume 1: The Complexities of Second Temple Judaism. Edited by D. A. Carsons, Peter O'Brien, and Mark Seifrid. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. 619 Pages. \$55.00. *Justification and Variegated Nomism. Volume 2: The Paradoxes of Paul.* Edited by D. A. Carsons, Peter O'Brien, and Mark Seifrid. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004. 545 Pages. \$55.00.

Even though the term "variegated nomism" in the titles of this two-volume collection of essays does not sound inviting, they are a treasure trove of research from numerous scholars that issues a very substantial challenge to the "New Perspective on Paul" scholarship. The "New Perspective" was promulgated in the latter decades of the twentieth century, especially by E. P. Sanders who popularized the term "covenantal nomism" in *Paul and Palestinian Judaism* (1977). Sanders stressed that first-century Judaism—including Paul—understood that Jews entered the covenant by grace through faith but maintained their position in the covenant by works of the law (thus the term "covenantal nomism"). The research in these volumes demonstrates that such an understanding of first-century Judaism is reductionistic and does not reflect the complex variety of perspectives that existed on the soteriological function of the law (thus the title *Justification and Variegated Nomism*).

The first volume, *The Complexities of Second Temple Judaism*, is the foundational volume. It has essays that address soteriology and the role of the law in various types of Second Temple Jewish literature by the following scholars: Daniel Falk, Craig Evans, Peter Enns, Philip Davies, Richard Bauckham, Richard Kugler, Donald Gowan, Paul Spilsbury, Philip Alexander, Martin McNamara, David Hay, and Markus Bockmuehl. Essays by Mark Seifrid (Righteousness in the OT) and Roland Deines (Pharisees) are especially valuable, as well as the synthetic summary by D. A. Carsons.

The second volume, *The Paradoxes of Paul*, deals directly with Pauline texts and responds critically to "New Perspective" positions. Essay topics include "New Perspective" scholarship (Stephen Westerholm), Paul's Righteousness Language (Mark Seifrid), Paul and the Law from Damascus to Antioch (Martin Hengel), Romans 1:18-3:20 (Mark Seifrid), Romans 3:21-4:25 (Simon Gathercole), Romans 5-11 (Douglas Moo), Faith and Works in Galatians (Moisés Silva), Covenantal Nomism in Paul (Peter O'Brien), Salvation History (Robert Yarbrough), Paul's Anthropology (Timo Laato), Paul's Conversion (Peter O'Brien), Paul's Understanding of Old and New (D. A. Carsons), Luther and Paul (Timothy George), and Justification of the Ungodly (Henri Blocher). This volume is a very valuable distillation of rigorous research against the various "New Perspective" positions. It should be consulted by all who study Paul's understanding of the law, a subject of importance to Lutheran pastors.