

Paul, Ethics, and the Law



Letters to the Galatians and Romans

The Letter to the Galatians

- A deliberative speech
- The problem
 - The teachers and circumcision
- Paul's aim
 - Avoid circumcision
 - Preserve dependence on Christ
 - Without moral chaos



The Letter to the Romans

- A deliberative speech
- The problem
 - Paul wants support
 - Suspicion of his Gospel
- Paul's aim
 - Win support
 - Convince of his reliability
 - Without compromising



The Letter to the Romans

- The problem
- A courtroom defense (1:15-16)
- The key questions
 - Is Paul's God Just? (1-5)
 - Does Paul give a reason to be good? (6-8)
 - What about the chosen people? (9-11)
 - Does Paul leave us an ethical guide? (12-15)



Paul and the Law

- Confusion and debate
 - Lutheran (Bultmann, Barrett)
 - Reformed (Schreiner)
 - New-perspective (Dunn, Wright)
 - Moderate (Westerholm)



Paul and the Law

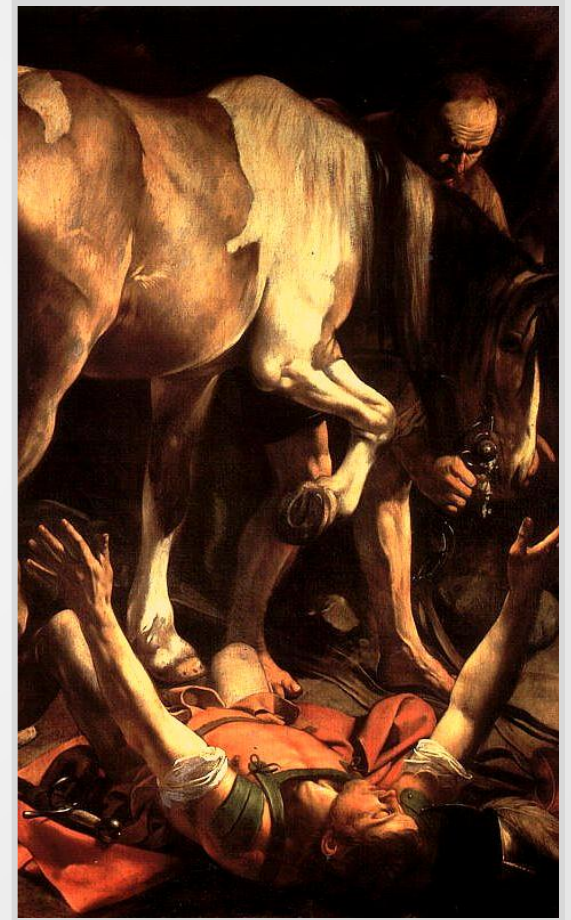
- Confusion and debate
 - Lutheran, Reformed, New-perspective, Moderate
- Key questions
 - The problem with Jewish law-keeping?
 - Why is “faith in Christ” the solution?
 - What does it mean that God “justifies”?
 - What role does Law play for believers

Paul and the Law

- A moderate proposal
 - The law no longer has jurisdiction over believers
 - Even “moral” law
 - Wasn’t intended to produce righteousness
 - Can’t keep it sufficiently
 - Faith in Christ an alternative basis for judgment
 - Spirit makes righteous behaviour possible
 - We “fulfill” the law without “keeping” it

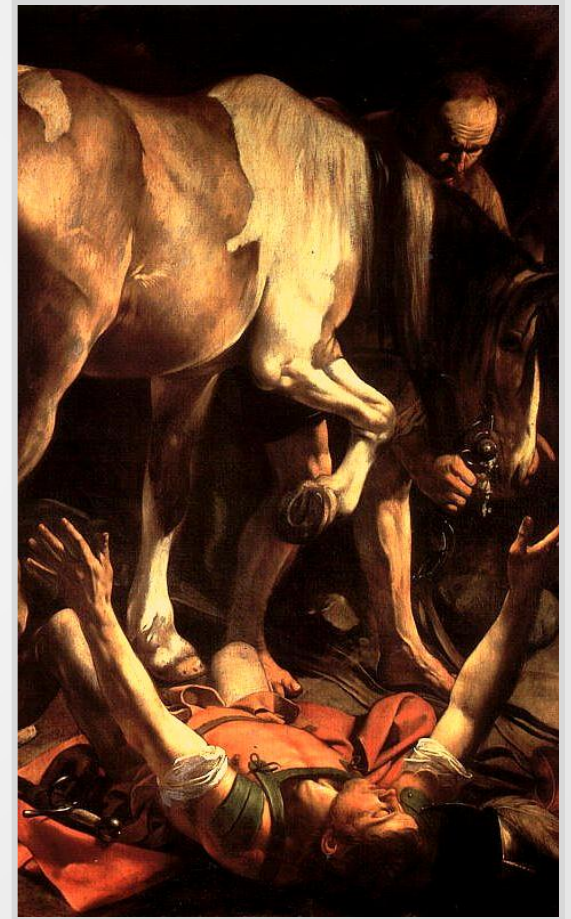
Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
 - The Cross
 - God's inclusion of Gentiles



Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
- Implications
 - Salvation by faith alone
 - A rich concept of “trust”
 - No separate path for Israel



Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
- Implications
- Grace vs. moral demand?
 - Saved for a restored life
 - Being “in” Christ
 - Real danger
 - Asking the right question

