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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Editors' Preface -- Author's Preface -- Contents -- I. On Paul's Life, Style and Theology -- A Tale of Two Cities: "Tarsus or Jerusalem" Revisited -- Hyperbolic Contrasts: A Neglected Aspect of Paul's Style -- Vilification as a Pragmatic Device in Early Christian Epistolography -- Encountering Grace: Towards Understanding the Essence of Paul's Damascus Experience -- The Centrality of Grace in the Theology of Paul -- Primitive Christian Belief in the Resurrection of Jesus in the Light of Pauline Resurrection and Appearance Terminology -- Faith and Obedience in Paul -- "In Christ", "in the Spirit" and Related Prepositional Phrases: Their Relevance for a Discussion on Pauline Mysticism -- II. On Paul's Letter to the Galatians -- Alienation and Re-Identification as Pragmatic Strategies in Galatians -- Galatians 6:13: A Possible Solution to an Old Exegetical Problem -- III. On Paul's Letter to the Romans -- "God's beloved in Rome" (Rom 1:7). The Genesis and Socio-Economic Situation of the First Generation Christian Community in Rome -- The Ecclesiastical Situation of the First Generation Roman Christians -- Persuasion in Romans 1:1-17 -- Romans 1:3-4 and the Gospel Tradition: A Reassessment of the Phrase

Sommario/riassunto

In the early 1970's, due to serious epistemological flaws, the demise of traditional New Testament research paradigms became imminent. A new generation of scholars started the search for a fresh approach, based on scientifically sound principles. Working within the stimulating atmosphere of the New Testament Society of South Africa, the author was one of the pioneers in developing a new, multi-dimensional research approach for New Testament studies. The articles in the present volume, written over a period of 25 years, reflect part of this journey, as viewed from a Pauline perspective. Combining the positive aspects of the traditional biblical research paradigms with the important insights of modern linguistics, literary science, semantics and pragmatics, particularly rhetoric, the author investigates the convergence of various influences in Paul's pre-Christian career. He proposes new possibilities of understanding Paul's language and style, such as hyperbolic contrasts, typical of his Semitic background. Various aspects of his strategies of persuasion are investigated, such as creating an ethos, vilification, alienation and re-identification. The majority of articles concentrate on central elements in Pauline theology: belief in the resurrection of Jesus, the centrality of grace, the in Christ and related formulae, faith and obedience, justification in Romans, Christian identity, ethics and ethos, as portrayed in Romans.