

SCD ANNUAL CONFERENCE / 2016

Friday 30 September - Saturday 1 October, 2016

Sydney College of Divinity Campus  
Macquarie Park, Sydney, Australia

# Romans and the Legacy of St Paul:

## Social, Theological & Pastoral Perspectives

### No other letter has left such a legacy ...

as Paul's epistle to the Romans. Its effects reverberate through the centuries. Martin Luther started to grapple with 'justification by faith' when he first lectured on the epistle in 1516, some 600 years ago. Karl Barth compared his encounter with Romans to seizing the bell-rope instead of the hand-rail in a dark church, ringing out its message in the chaos of post-war Germany. This conference focuses on the importance of Romans in the New Testament canon and its wider legacy for our understanding of Paul's ministry and theology. Papers may focus on traditional socio-historical, literary and exegetical studies of the epistle or, instead, investigate its theology. The impact of Romans socially, theologically or pastorally upon the church and western civilisation may also be explored, engaging with any aspect of its interpretation from the Church Fathers to theologians and philosophers in the present.

#### Keynote Speakers /

**Associate Professor Mark Reasoner**

*Marian University, Indianapolis, USA*

**Professor Brendan Byrne**

*Jesuit Theological College, Melbourne, Australia*



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## Call for Papers /

The Conference Planning Committee invites scholars and doctoral candidates from the theological and wider academic community to submit the title of their proposed presentation at this conference, together with an abstract of 250 -300 words, by **16 May, 2016**. Acceptance of papers will be communicated by **30 May, 2016**.

This should be accompanied by contact details: name, institutional affiliation, postal address, phone number and email address. Please address submissions to Professor James R. Harrison - [jimh@scd.edu.au](mailto:jimh@scd.edu.au).

It is expected that presentations will be 30 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for questions.

Registration costs, including conference dinner, accommodation options, and transport details, will be available on the SCD website from **11 April, 2015**.

## Plenary Sessions /

Both keynote speakers are internationally renowned scholars on the exegesis of Romans.

Brendan Byrne has written the commentary on Romans in the Sacra Pagina series (1996) and *Reckoning with Romans: A Contemporary Reading of Paul's Gospel* (1986), while Mark Reasoner has written *The Strong and the Weak: Romans 14:1-15:13 and Romans in Full Circle: A History of Interpretation* (1998).

Each speaker will be giving two keynote addresses and will be participating in a forum at the end of the conference.

## Conference Theme /

The conference explores the legacy and continuing impact of St. Paul's epistle to the Romans. The social, theological, and pastoral dimensions of Romans' legacy may be investigated from a variety of viewpoints: socio-historical, literary and exegetical studies; patristic (Augustine), Reformation (Luther, Calvin, Melancthon), and neo- orthodox (Barth, Brunner) perspectives; or the approach of modern philosophers (Agamben) to the epistle.

Aspects of Romans' theology and its relevance for current discourse may be explored, or, alternatively, its pastoral implications for ministry today, or, again, the role of the epistle in challenging the classical worldview and in shaping the western intellectual tradition. Interdisciplinary approaches are also welcome.

## Guidelines for paper proposals /

- 1 / As noted, the paper's title, with an abstract of 250 -300 words, should be sent to the SCD Research Director, Professor James R. Harrison ([jimh@scd.edu.au](mailto:jimh@scd.edu.au)), by **16 May, 2016**. Submissions should be accompanied by contact details: name, institutional affiliation, postal address, phone number and email address.
- 2 / The title of the paper and its abstract must articulate clearly the line of argument that the paper will take, indicating its contribution to research in the chosen area.
- 3 / Paper proposals should indicate whether audio-visual equipment is required for the presentation, so that the presentations in each room can proceed smoothly.
- 4 / Subject to the papers offered, the Conference Program will assign papers to various streams (e.g. socio-historical, exegetical, theological, pastoral, patristic, Reformation, cultural, social and philosophical legacy, etc.), so that conferees may specialise in their interest area. It would be helpful if paper proposals would nominate the area in which their paper falls.
- 5 / Further enquiries should be directed to Professor Harrison at the email address above.