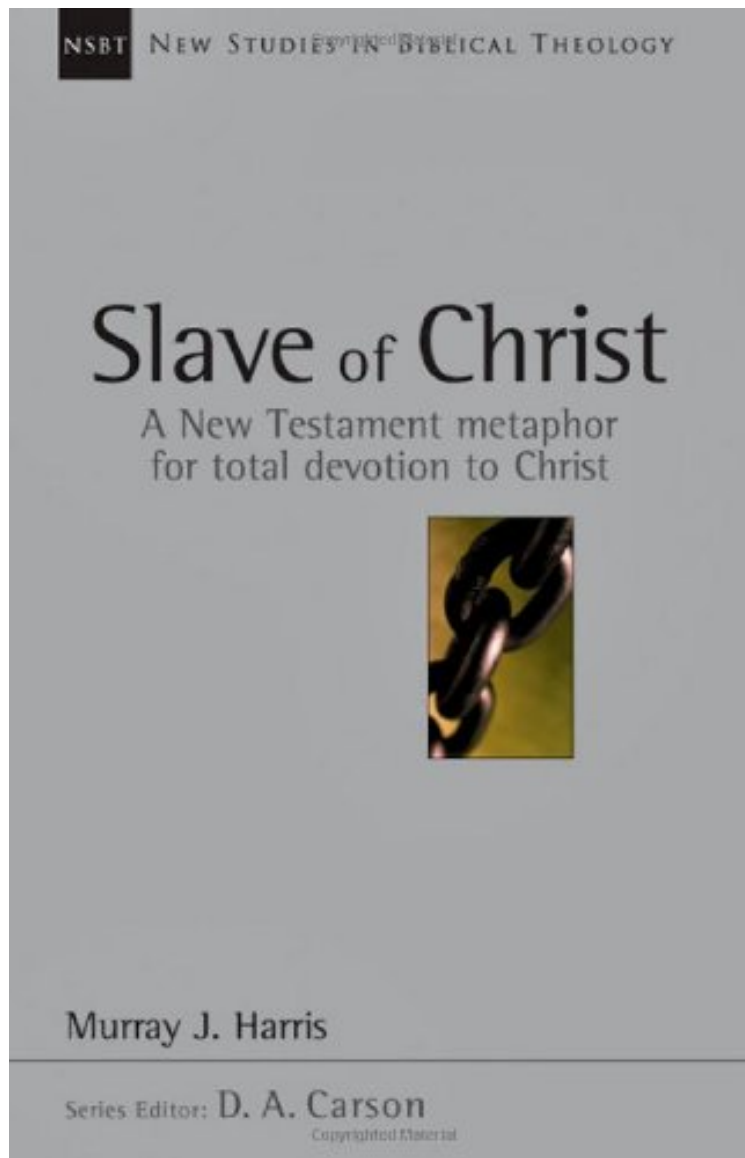


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Slave of Christ: A New Testament Metaphor for Total Devotion to Christ (New Studies in Biblical Theology)

Murray J. Harris

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Murray J. Harris : Slave of Christ: A New Testament Metaphor for Total Devotion to Christ (New Studies in Biblical Theology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slave of Christ: A New Testament Metaphor for Total Devotion to Christ (New Studies in Biblical Theology):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Harris provides excellent background material on slavery in the Roman world that ...By Andrew T HancockMurray Harris writes this book to explore the New Testament word group *doulos* (translated slave or servant) and to explain the slave of Christ metaphor as a picture of the Christian's relationship with God. Harris' hope for the book is that it would draw attention to the metaphor of slavery in order to revive interest in the often neglected theme and to promote wholehearted devotion to Christ (19). The book opens by offering a list of the uses of *doulos* and explanations of the slave of Christ expression in Scripture (17-24). Chapters 2-3 explain background material to the theme by covering slavery in the Roman Empire in the first century and by giving details about New Testament attitudes toward physical slavery (25-68). The next section of the book (chapters 4-7) explain the four main connotations of the *doulos* word group in Scripture; slavery as freedom, lordship, ownership, and privilege (69-138). The final section of the book (chapters 8-9) explains the significance of the slave of Christ phrase in the New Testament and offers four examples of characters who demonstrated the theme in their actions; Dorcas, Onesiphorus, Priscilla, and Aquila (139-172). This book is a thorough and scholarly treatment of the New Testament metaphor of slave of Christ. Harris provides excellent background material on slavery in the Roman world that serves as a backdrop for the biblical use of the metaphor. The introductory chapter explains the rationale for the book well and sets the stage for the rest of the book by listing the occurrences of the expression slave of God in Scripture. Harris' use of question and answer format throughout the book serves to keep the reader interested in the theme. This book revives the importance and poignancy the slave of Christ theme that has often been lost in modern English translations. Harris writes with clarity, concern, and the necessary sensitivity and balance required by this theme. All of the major texts about slave of Christ are covered with a grammatical precision that is also informed by scholarly reference material. Particularly helpful is the four part explanation of the *doulos* word group as freedom, lordship, ownership, and privilege. Harris insightfully explains how the slavery to Christ image is a wholly positive—someone who is humble in submission, obedient to the Master's will, and preoccupied with pleasing Christ (143). Harris also carefully explains the limitations of the metaphor. Harris' explanation of the life and ministry of Priscilla and Aquila as slaves to Christ is particularly thorough and perceptive. The book has engaging research questions and clear rationale but lacks a clear thesis statement and explanation of methodology. Harris does pause to summarize his thoughts throughout the book but a comprehensive summary of the main findings of the book is missing. At the end of the book the reader is left with excellent information on the topic but without a concise overview of the slavery metaphor or any ideas on how to apply the truths to life. A final chapter including a summary and application section would improve the book.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Significant Contribution to N.T. StudiesBy Michael D. FiorelloHarris' book begins with a detailed study of the linguistic, historical, legal, and social contexts of the institution of slavery in ancient Israel, Greece, and Rome in the first century. The book then studies Paul's metaphoric use (and the implications) of slave terminology with respect to the Christian's relationship with God. He argues that Paul's use of the slave metaphor connotes exclusive ownership, total availability, and complete dependence rather than enforced, loss of freedom, or cringing subservience. This book brings a significant contribution to New Testament studies.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. heart warming and devotionalBy Martin AsareA book well written to stir the heart to Devotion to christ and the body of Christ. Puts the beauty of serving as a slave where it should be in an age where the concept of slavery only has negative connotations. A must read for all christians seeking to live out Rom 12:1-2

The New Testament finds many ways to depict the relationship of Christians and their Lord. They are his disciples, sons, daughters and friends. But it is perhaps too little recognized that they are also his slaves. In this New Studies in Biblical Theology volume, Murray J. Harris sets out to uncover what it means to be a slave of Christ. He begins by assessing the nature of actual slavery in the Greco-Roman world and the New Testament's attitude towards it. Drawing insights from this, he goes on to unfold the metaphor of slavery to Christ. Among the topics discussed are slavery and spiritual freedom, lordship, ownership, and privilege. Slave of Christ is a model of good biblical theology, providing insights both for future study of the Bible and for practical application. Addressing key issues in biblical theology, the works comprising New Studies in Biblical Theology are creative attempts to help Christians better understand their Bibles. The NSBT series is edited by D. A. Carson, aiming to simultaneously instruct and to edify, to interact with current scholarship and to point the way ahead.

I hope that you are familiar with InterVarsity Press' series titles "New Studies in Biblical Theology." . . . I would like to introduce it to you by previewing one of the volumes that has greatly impacted my view of the Christian life. I appreciate the help in working through the Biblical data provided here by Murray J. Harris. I highly recommend this study to you. (Jason Button, TheoSource, May 20, 2008)"Combines meticulous scholarship and the careful unpacking of a biblical theme that is widely neglected. . . . A most valuable work." (D. A. Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, Illinois))About the AuthorHarris is professor emeritus of New Testament exegesis and theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Formerly, he was warden of Tyndale House at Cambridge

University in England. His Ph.D. is from the University of Manchester, where he studied under F. F. Bruce.