Politics and the Epistle to the Romans

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DESCRIPTION

While there is no question that Paul’s Epistle to the Romans is a foundational texts of Christian religion, it has not always been recognized the extent to which it is a political manifesto. Recent scholarship, however, both Christian and non-Christian, has recovered this key aspect the Epistle, for which it must be now placed alongside Plato’s Republic and Aristotle’s Politics as a fundamental text of western political thought. Moreover, this new scholarship has shown how the political charge of the Epistle is capable of moving our political imagination radically beyond the limits of late-capitalist liberal polity. This seminar we will explore how Paul’s vision has been taken up by a variety of recent thinkers as paradigmatic of new way of conceiving the rule of law, the event and the universal, and how this can be a fresh provocation for theology today.

CONTENTS

Seminar 1: Romans and the Empire (Blumenfeld, Wright, Elliott)
Seminar 2: Romans and the Rule of Law (Taubes, Schmitt, Benjamin, Agamben)
Seminar 3: Romans and Universalism (Badiou, Žižek)
Seminar 4: Romans and the Theopolitical (Milbank)

METHODOLOGY

Seminar discussion; commentary of texts

EVALUATION

Participation in discussion
SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY


