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*By Mark Finney*



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This book begins by arguing that early Greek reflection on the afterlife and immortality insisted on the importance of the physical body whereas a wealth of Jewish texts from the Hebrew Bible, Second Temple Judaism and early (Pauline) Christianity understood post-mortem existence to be that of the soul alone. Changes begin to appear in the later New Testament where the importance of the afterlife of the physical body became essential, and such thoughts continued into the period of the early Church where the significance of the physical body in post-mortem existence became a point of theological orthodoxy. This book will assert that the influx of Greco-Romans into the early Church changed the direction of Christian thought towards one which included the body. At the same time, the ideological and polemical thrust of an eternal tortuous afterlife for the wicked became essential.



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*"F. has certainly given us much to think about. His assertion that Paul's afterlife is consistent with his exposition of Second Temple literature in chapter 3, as well as the opposition he sees between Paul's resurrected Christ as a 'glorified spiritual entity' and the resurrected fleshly body of Christ in the Gospels of Luke and John, is well argued."* – Seth Cole, SOTS Book List 2017

#### **About the Author**

Mark Finney is Lecturer in Religion in the Department of History at the University of Sheffield. My recent publications include, *Honour and Conflict in the Ancient World* (T&T Clark, 2012). My research interests include: concepts of afterlife in Jewish and Christian traditions and conflict and violence in the Abrahamic faiths.

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