

# Paul, Ethics, and the Law



Letters to the Galatians and Romans

# The Letter to the Galatians

- A deliberative speech
- The problem
  - The teachers and circumcision
- Paul's aim
  - Avoid circumcision
  - Preserve dependence on Christ
  - Without moral chaos



# The Letter to the Romans

- A deliberative speech
- The problem
  - Paul wants support
  - Suspicion of his Gospel
- Paul's aim
  - Win support
  - Convince of his reliability
  - Without compromising



# The Letter to the Romans

- The problem
- A courtroom defense (1:15-16)
- The key questions
  - Is Paul's God Just? (1-5)
  - Does Paul give a reason to be good? (6-8)
  - What about the chosen people? (9-11)
  - Does Paul leave us an ethical guide? (12-15)



# Paul and the Law

- Confusion and debate
  - Lutheran (Bultmann, Barrett)
  - Reformed (Schreiner)
  - New-perspective (Dunn, Wright)
  - Moderate (Westerholm)



# Paul and the Law

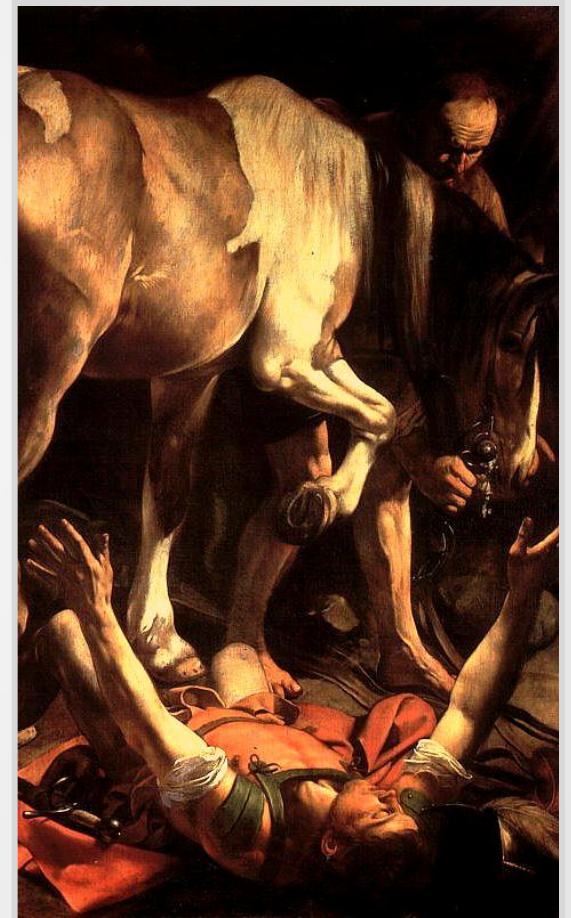
- Confusion and debate
  - Lutheran, Reformed, New-perspective, Moderate
- Key questions
  - The problem with Jewish law-keeping?
  - Why is “faith in Christ” the solution?
  - What does it mean that God “justifies”?
  - What role does Law play for believers

# Paul and the Law

- A moderate proposal
  - The law no longer has jurisdiction over believers
    - Even “moral” law
    - Wasn’t intended to produce righteousness
    - Can’t keep it sufficiently
  - Faith in Christ an alternative basis for judgment
  - Spirit makes righteous behaviour possible
    - We “fulfill” the law without “keeping” it

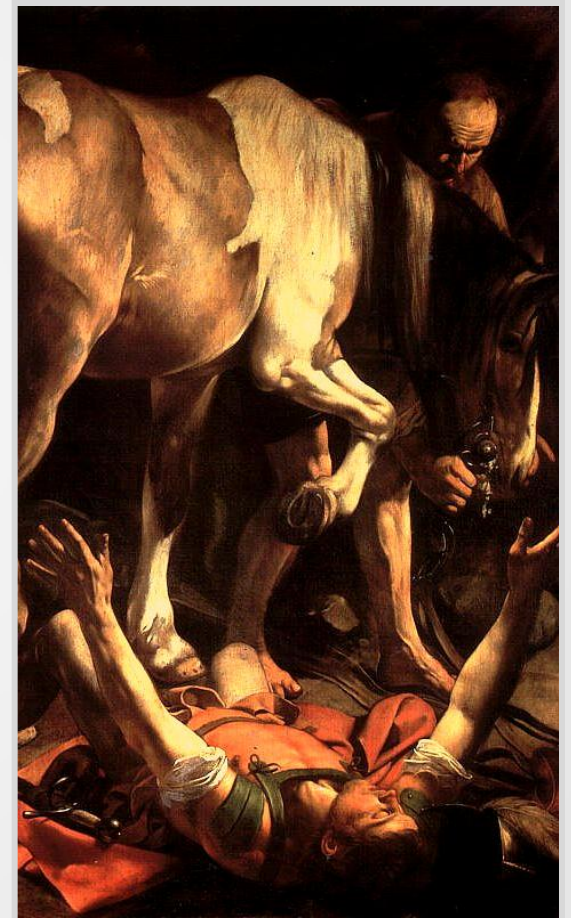
# Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
  - The Cross
  - God's inclusion of Gentiles



# Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
- Implications
  - Salvation by faith alone
    - A rich concept of “trust”
  - No separate path for Israel



# Paul and the Law

- Why such a radical view?
- Implications
- Grace vs. moral demand?
  - Saved for a restored life
  - Being “in” Christ
  - Real danger
  - Asking the right question

