

**Joseph A. Marchal, ed., *Studying Paul's Letters: Contemporary Perspectives and Methods*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press ([www.fortresspress.org](http://www.fortresspress.org)), 2012.**  
Pages, xiv + 233. Paper, \$32.00.

The leading question of this collection of essays is how the contemporary student of Paul can best approach a study of the Pauline letters. What perspective should one choose? What, in effect, does one need to know in order to comprehend Paul's writings? The essays in the volume are written by a variety of faculty who actually teach Paul in their classrooms and offer a rich smorgasbord of possible approaches: historical, rhetorical, spatial, economic, visual, feminist, Jewish, African American, Asian, post-colonial, and "queer." The head of a prospective student might be spinning after going through this array of methodologies and perspectives. Curiously, given the nature and purpose of the Pauline writings, one perspective that seems left out of the selections is the vantage point of a community of faith or a theological or pastoral viewpoint.