

Néstor O. Míguez, *The Practice of Hope. Ideology and Intention in 1 Thessalonians*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. Pages, xii + 243.

This study of Paul's theology joins a growing body of literature that discerns an anti-Roman, anti-imperial cast to the writings of the New Testament. Here the specific focus is on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, which is probably the earliest New Testament text to be written. Míguez is a biblical scholar and an Argentine

missionary pastor and political activist who has personally been engaged with and has suffered from oppressive civil powers. Paul, in his view, confronts Rome's hegemony and oppressive power by reminding his readers of an alternate universe under God's sovereignty that eschews violence and challenges Rome's exploitation. As such, Paul's eschatological perspective evident in 1 Thessalonians is not a mere theological construct or utopian thinking but a powerful strategy of hope worth reflecting on today.