

## Thomas R. Blanton IV

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### EDUCATION

**PhD, 2006. Biblical Studies.** University of Chicago Divinity School. Chicago, IL.  
Dissertation: “Constructing a New Covenant: Discursive Strategies in the Damascus Document and Second Corinthians” (Advisor: Hans-Josef Klauck)

**MTS, 1995.** Duke Divinity School. Durham, N.C.

**BA, 1991.** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, N.C.  
Major: Psychology

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

*A Spiritual Economy: Gift Exchange in the Letters of Paul of Tarsus*, Synkrisis: Comparative Approaches to Early Christianity in Greco-Roman Context (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2017)

*Constructing a New Covenant: Discursive Strategies in the Damascus Document and Second Corinthians*, WUNT 2/233 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007)

*Imitation and Exemplification in the Letters of Paul of Tarsus* (in progress)

#### COEDITED VOLUMES

Thomas R. Blanton IV and Raymond Pickett, eds., *Paul and Economics: A Handbook* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017)

Thomas R. Blanton IV, Robert M. Calhoun, and Clare K. Rothschild, eds., *The History of Religions School Today: Essays on the New Testament and Related Ancient Mediterranean Texts*, WUNT 1/340 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014)

David B. Hollander, Thomas R. Blanton IV, and John T. Fitzgerald, eds., *The Extramercantile Economies of Greek and Roman Cities: New Perspectives on the Economic History of Classical Antiquity*, Routledge Monographs in Classical Studies (London: Routledge Press; under contract)

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Economics and Early Christianity,” *Religious Studies Review* 43 (2017): 93–100 (invited review article covering eleven books)

“Saved by Obedience: Matthew 1:21 in Light of Jesus’ Teaching on the Torah,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 132 (2013): 393–413

“The Benefactor’s Account-book: The Rhetoric of Gift Reciprocation in Seneca and Paul,” *New Testament Studies* 59 (2013): 396–414

“Spirit and Covenant Renewal: A Theologoumenon of Paul’s Opponents in 2 Corinthians,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129 (2010): 153–75

## BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Economic Functions of Gift Exchange in Pauline Assemblies,” in Thomas R. Blanton IV and Raymond Pickett, eds., *Paul and Economics: A Handbook* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017), 279–306

Substantive revision of Benjamin Fiore, “Paul, Exemplification, and Imitation,” in J. Paul Sampley, ed., *Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. (London and New York: T&T Clark, 2016), 1: 169–95

“*De caelo patrociniūm*: The Economy of Divine Patronage in Apuleius’ *Metamorphoses*,” in Thomas R. Blanton IV, Robert M. Calhoun, and Clare K. Rothschild, eds., *The History of Religions School Today: Essays on the New Testament and Related Ancient Mediterranean Texts*, WUNT 1/340 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014), 283–96

“Paul’s Covenantal Theology in 2 Cor 2:14–7:4,” in Reimund Bieringer and Didier Pollefeyt, eds., *Paul and Judaism: Crosscurrents in Pauline Exegesis and the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations*, Library of New Testament Studies 463 / European Studies in Christian Origins (London and New York: T&T Clark, 2012), 61–71

“Archaeology and the Historical Imagination: The Corinthian Eucharist in Architectural Context(s),” in James R. Strange and C. Thomas McCollough, eds., *The Role of Texts and Archaeology in the Study of New Testament Backgrounds*, Archaeology and Biblical Studies (Atlanta: SBL Press, forthcoming 2018)

(Coauthored with David B. Hollander) “The Extramercantile Economy: Problematizing the New Institutional Economics Paradigm in Recent Studies of Ancient Greece and Rome,” in David B. Hollander, Thomas R. Blanton IV, and John T. Fitzgerald, eds., *The Extramercantile Economies of Greek and Roman Cities: New Perspectives on the Economic History of Classical Antiquity* (London: Routledge Press; under contract)

“Wealth, Poverty, and Economy,” in Stephen P. Ahearne-Kroll, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Synoptic Gospels* (New York: Oxford University Press; under contract)

## ARTICLES IN REFERENCE WORKS

“Gift, NT,” in Dale C. Allison, Jr., Volker Leppin, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 10: *Genocide–Hakkoz* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2015): 240–42

“Gift, Film,” in Dale C. Allison, Jr., Volker Leppin, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 10: *Genocide–Hakkoz* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2015): 254–55

“Foundation, NT,” in Dale C. Allison, Jr., Volker Leppin, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 9: *Field–Gennesaret* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2014): 513–14

“Boasting,” in Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 4: *Birsha–Chariot of Fire* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2011): 245–47

“Belial, NT,” in Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 3: *Athena–Birkat ha-Minim* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2011): 794–95

“Antonia, Tower of,” in Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 2: *Anim–Atheism* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2009): 294–96

“Abilene,” in Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 1: *Aaron–Aniconism* (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2009): 91–92

Entries in the Contexticon of New Testament Language: ἀναγινώσκω (“to read”); ἐξαίφνης (“suddenly”); εὕρισκεσθαι καθεύδοντες (“to be found sleeping”); ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου (“son of man”); ὑπομένω εἰς τέλος (“to remain to the end”); συντέλεια (“completion”); τέλος (“end”; “goal”); θροέομαι (“to be distressed”); online at <http://contexticon.com/>

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Verlyn D. Verbrugge and Keith R. Krell, *Paul and Money: A Biblical and Theological Analysis of the Apostle’s Teachings and Practices* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015); *Review of Biblical Literature* 10/2017 (invited review)

Review of Paul Han, *Swimming in the Sea of Scripture: Paul’s Use of the Old Testament in 2 Corinthians 4.7–13.13*, LNTS 519 (London: T&T Clark, 2014); *The Journal of Religion* 97 (2017): 278–79 (invited review)

Review of Jennifer Houston McNeel, *Paul as Infant and Nursing Mother: Metaphor, Rhetoric, and Identity in 1 Thessalonians 2:5–8*, *Early Christianity and Its Literature* 12 (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014); *Review of Biblical Literature* 7/2015 (invited review)

Review of Steven Friesen, Sarah James, and Daniel Schowalter, eds., *Corinth in Contrast: Studies in Inequality*, NovTSupp 155 (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014); *Review of Biblical Literature* 4/2015

Review of John Barclay and Simon Gathercole, eds., *Divine and Human Agency in Paul and His Cultural Environment*, JSNTSupp 335 (London: T&T Clark, 2006); *Review of Biblical Literature* 11/2009

Review of Kathy Ehrensperger, *Paul and the Dynamics of Power: Communication and Interaction in the Early Christ-Movement* (London: T&T Clark, 2007); *Review of Biblical Literature* 4/2009

Review of Neil Coffee, *Gift and Gain: How Money Transformed Ancient Rome* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017); *Klio: Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte* (invited review under contract)

## INVITED BLOG POSTS

“Taxation Past and Present: Jesus, Rome, and the Trump Tax Cuts,” *We Talk. We Listen. Conversations about Diversity*, April 16, 2018; <https://wetalkwelisten.wordpress.com/2018/04/16/taxation-past-and-present-jesus-rome-and-the-trump-tax-cuts-thomas-r-blanton-iv/>; also at <https://tinyurl.com/TaxationPastPresent>. [NB: I am responsible for the text of this post,

but, aside from the photo of the drachma minted under Tiberius, I did not choose nor do I endorse the accompanying images.]

“Theorizing ‘the Ancient Economy’: Three Paradigms,” *Ancient Jew Review*, April 12, 2017; <http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2017/4/5/theorizing-the-ancient-economy-three-paradigms>; also at <http://tinyurl.com/AJRAncientEcon>.

“The Gift Economy of the Earliest Christians,” *Yale Books Unbound*, March 6, 2017; <http://blog.yupnet.org/2017/03/06/the-gift-economy-of-the-earliest-christians/>; also at <http://tinyurl.com/YUPGiftEconomy>.

“(Field) Notes from a(n Archaeological) Newbie,” *ASOR Blog*; <http://asorblog.org/case-view/field-notes-from-an-archaeological-newbie/>; also at <http://tinyurl.com/ASORBlogNewbie>.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Auxiliary Professor in New Testament Studies.** Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Chicago, IL (Spring 2014 to present)

Greek for Ministry (introduction to Koine Greek)

Greek Pericopes (ELCA lectionary readings from the Greek New Testament)

Life and Letters of Paul (on-campus and online courses)

**Visiting Assistant Professional Specialist.** University of Notre Dame. South Bend, IN (Spring 2018)

Introduction to the New Testament (master’s level)

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion.** Luther College. Decorah, IA (Fall 2007 to Spring 2013)

Apocalypse in Literature and Film

Apostle Paul: Discourse and Practice

Gift Exchange in Religion and Society

Hellenistic Religions

Introduction to Biblical Studies

Introduction to the New Testament

The World of the Bible: Dead Sea Scrolls

The World of the Bible: Ancient Mystery Religions

**Lecturer in Religious Studies.** Saint Xavier University. Chicago, IL (Fall 2006)

New Testament Christianity

**Lecturer in Religious Studies.** Albion College. Albion, MI (Fall 2005 to Spring 2006)

Introduction to Western Religions

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Introduction to the New Testament

Jewish Life and Thought

Introduction to Biblical Greek

**Lecturer in Koine Greek.** University of Chicago Divinity School. Chicago, IL

Introduction to Koine Greek I–III (Autumn 2002 to Spring 2004)

**Instructor.** The Graham School of General Studies. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL

Ancient Mediterranean Religions (Autumn 2006)  
 Politics, History, and Myth in the Dead Sea Scrolls (Autumn 2003)

**Teaching Assistant.** The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Winter 2000)  
 The Exodus Narrative in Jewish and Christian Traditions

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

Ann Gonyea-Alexander received the 2015 Edgar Krentz Award for Biblical Interpretation for her paper, “The *Pistis Christou* Debate and Use of the Gift-Giving Paradigm and Patron-Client Relations in Paul’s Epistles: A Case for the Subjective Genitive Translation,” written in my “Life and Letters of Paul” course at LSTC.

## AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

**Primary:** New Testament, Pauline Epistles, Koine Greek, Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy

**Secondary:** Greco-Roman Cultural Contexts, Second Temple Judaism, Interdisciplinary Methods in Religious Studies

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Co-organizer with Raymond Pickett: “Paul and Economics”; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Chicago, IL, Sept. 18–19, 2015 (an international conference involving classicists, economic historians, and scholars of early Christianity surveying data on material conditions and exchange within early Christian assemblies in context of the larger Roman economy)

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

“The Self-Support and Sustenance of Paul the *Skēnopoios*,” the Historical Paul program unit; Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2018 (Denver; invited paper)

(With David B. Hollander) “The Extramercantile Economy: Problematizing the New Institutional Economics Paradigm in Recent Studies of Ancient Greece and Rome,” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit; Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2017 (Boston)

“Following the Model of Abraham: Imitation and Exemplification in Genesis 15 and 17, Jubilees 15, and Romans 4,” Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Colloquium, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, Oct. 11, 2017

“Theorizing ‘the Ancient Economy,’” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit; Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2016 (San Antonio)

“Domestic Architecture and Economic Status in Early Christian Assemblies,” The Role of Texts and Archaeology in the Study of New Testament Backgrounds: Essays in Honor of James F. Strange session; American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, 2015 (Atlanta; invited paper)

“The Economic Functions of Gift Exchange in Pauline Assemblies,” Paul and Economics conference, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Sept. 18–19, 2015

- “*De caelo patrocinium: The Economy of Divine Patronage in Apuleius’ Metamorphoses,*” *Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti* program unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2014 (San Diego; invited paper)
- “Did Paul Have a ‘Policy’ Regarding Financial Support?” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit, Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, 2014 (Vienna, Austria)
- “Commodity or Gift? On the Classification of Paul’s Unremunerated Labor,” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2013 (Baltimore); SBL International Meeting, 2013 (St. Andrews)
- “Interpreting Paul’s Collection: From ‘Capitalist Criticism’ to Capitalism’s Troubled Conscience?” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2012 (Chicago)
- “Invocation and the ‘Language of the Gods’ in the Great Tablet from Thurii,” *Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti* program unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2012 (Chicago)
- “Significant Nonsense: Denotation and Connotation in the ‘Great’ Tablet from Thurii,” Religion in Pieces Interdisciplinary Conference, Brown University, Apr. 27–29, 2012
- “The Benefactor’s Account-book: The Rhetoric of Gift Reciprocation in Seneca and Paul,” Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy program unit, Society of Biblical Literature 2011 Annual Meeting (San Francisco)
- “Saved by Obedience: Matthew 1:21 and Jesus’ Teaching on the Torah,” Matthew program unit, Society of Biblical Literature 2011 Annual Meeting (San Francisco)
- “Symbolic Goods as Media of Exchange in Paul’s Gift Economy,” Society for the Study of Early Christianity, Macquarie University (May 2011, invited paper)
- “Religious Economies of Symbolic Goods? Apuleius’ The Golden Ass as Test Case,” Sociology and Biblical Studies program unit; Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, 2010 (Tartu, Estonia)
- “Religious Economies of Symbolic Goods? Pauline Epistles as Test Cases,” Paul and Pauline Literature program unit; Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, 2010 (Tartu, Estonia)
- “Recent Research on 2 Corinthians 3: Implications for the New Perspective,” Second Corinthians: Pauline Theology in the Making Seminar; Society of Biblical Literature 2009 Annual Meeting (New Orleans)
- “Paul’s Covenantal Theology in 2 Cor 2:14–7:4,” New Perspectives on Paul and the Jews Seminar, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (2009, invited paper; conference website at [http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/page/conf\\_paulandthejews/](http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/page/conf_paulandthejews/))
- “Were Paul’s Opponents in 2 Corinthians Emissaries of the Jerusalem Church?” Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Region Meeting (2005)

“The Damascus Document’s ‘Critique of the Princes of Judah’: A Veiled Criticism of Aristobulus I and Alexander Jannaeus,” American Oriental Society/American Schools of Oriental Research/Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Region Joint Meeting (2003)

## **HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

William G. Dever Archaeological Fellowship for Biblical Scholars (Summer 2015)

The \$6000 fellowship supported work in field archaeology as an Area Supervisor at Shikhin in Lower Galilee under the direction of James R. Strange and research at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Inaugural recipient.

Luther College Faculty Development Grant for language study at the Goethe Institut, Chicago (Summer 2008)

Wabash Fellowship in Pedagogy and the Study of Religion. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL (Spring 2005)

Dissertation Fellow. Martin Marty Center. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL (2002–2003)

Milo P. Jewett Prize. University of Chicago Divinity School. Chicago, IL (2002)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Cochair. Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy International Meeting Program Unit. Society of Biblical Literature (2014–2016 [first term]; 2016–2018 [second term])

Cochair. Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy Annual Meeting Program Unit. Society of Biblical Literature (2016–2018)

Steering Committee. Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy Annual Meeting Program Unit. Society of Biblical Literature (2014–2016)

External reviewer. Fortress Press (2017)

Referee. *Journal of Theological Studies* (2013)

Referee. *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2010)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

International Student Friendship Family (2009–2011; Luther College Diversity Center)

## **LANGUAGES**

Reading knowledge of Classical and Koine Greek, Biblical and post-Biblical Hebrew, French, German, and Spanish

Aramaic, Syriac, Ethiopic, and Coptic (with significant recourse to dictionaries)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society of Biblical Literature

American Schools of Oriental Research

American Academy of Religion

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request