## **Contents**

Acknow	ledgements	VII

#### Introduction 1

1 Paul, Paul's Letters, and Contemporary Greco-Roman Literature of the Ancient Mediterranean 10

Introduction 10

My Approach: Textual Characteristics, Comparanda, and

Socio-Literary Spheres 15

Grounding the Present Study: Literary Criteria, and Specific versus

Abstract Content 23

Scholarship Characterizing Paul and Paul's Letters 27

Scholarship Characterizing the Broader Greco-Roman

Literary Landscape 56

Ancient Mediterranean Comparanda: Authors and Texts 67

2 Rethinking Paul and Paul's Letters: Paul, Epictetus, and Philodemus in Context 72

A Brief Introduction to Epictetus and Philodemus 72

Textual Analysis and Comparison 77

Social Location: Paul, Philodemus, and Epictetus 79

3 How Do We Compare Literature? Re-Classifying Paul's Letters in a Socio-Literary Sphere 89

Introduction 89

An Introduction to Genre and Taxonomy 91

Genre, Taxonomy, and Modern Literary Theory 96

The Theoretical Turn 1: Social Purpose 105

The Theoretical Turn II: Linguistic Anthropology, Metadiscursivity,

and Metapragmatics 11

Conclusions 119

4 An Overview of the Data: Annotated Literary Criteria in Paul, Epictetus, Philodemus, and Other Pauline Comparanda 121

The Approach 123

The Criteria 124

Table of Contents for Literary Criteria 125

VI CONTENTS

General Comments 141
An Introduction to the Data Sets 141
The Data: A Brief Discussion 146
Control Documents: Aelius Aristides' *Panathenaic Oration*, the *Damascus Document*, and Other Pauline Comparanda 152
Conclusions 166

# Socio-Historical Implications of Textual Comparison: The Education and Lives of Paul, Epictetus, and Philodemus 170

Introduction 170
Paul's Letters, Literacy, and Education 176
Broader Implications: Education and Social Location 196
A Few Final Structural, Textual, and Abstract Considerations 211

# Conclusion: Socio-Literary Spheres and Literary Classification in Biblical and Classical Studies 215

Review of Conclusions 215 Further Thoughts and Future Study 218

### Appendix 221

Graphical Analysis: Paul's Letters and Comparanda 222
Distilled Data: Literary Sphere and Other Comparanda 230
Specific Textual Data: Paul, Epictetus, and Philodemus 235

Bibliography 247
Index of Terms 293
Index of Ancient Authors and Texts 305