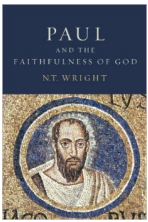


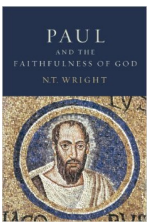
**Contribution: Every
Member Building Up
the Body**

The Biblical Theology Series

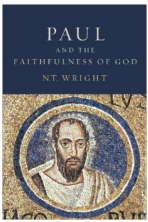
- New Testament:
 - ~~Gospels~~
 - Pauline epistles
 - Jewish encyclicals
 - Johannine literature
- Old Testament
 - ~~The Story~~
 - The Law
 - The Prophets
 - The Writings



Contribution



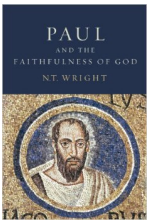
Contribution



Contribution

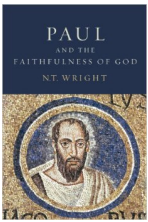
Making do with what we have:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2YZnTL596Q>



Each One...

- 1 Co 14.26 – part of a *huge* section of text
- 1 Co 11-14: orderly worship in the churches
- 14.26 begins Paul's summary: "What then is the conclusion, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, another language, or an interpretation. All things must be done for building up."

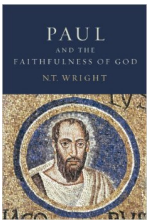


Study the Scriptures

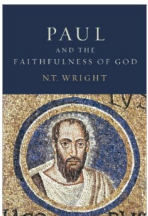
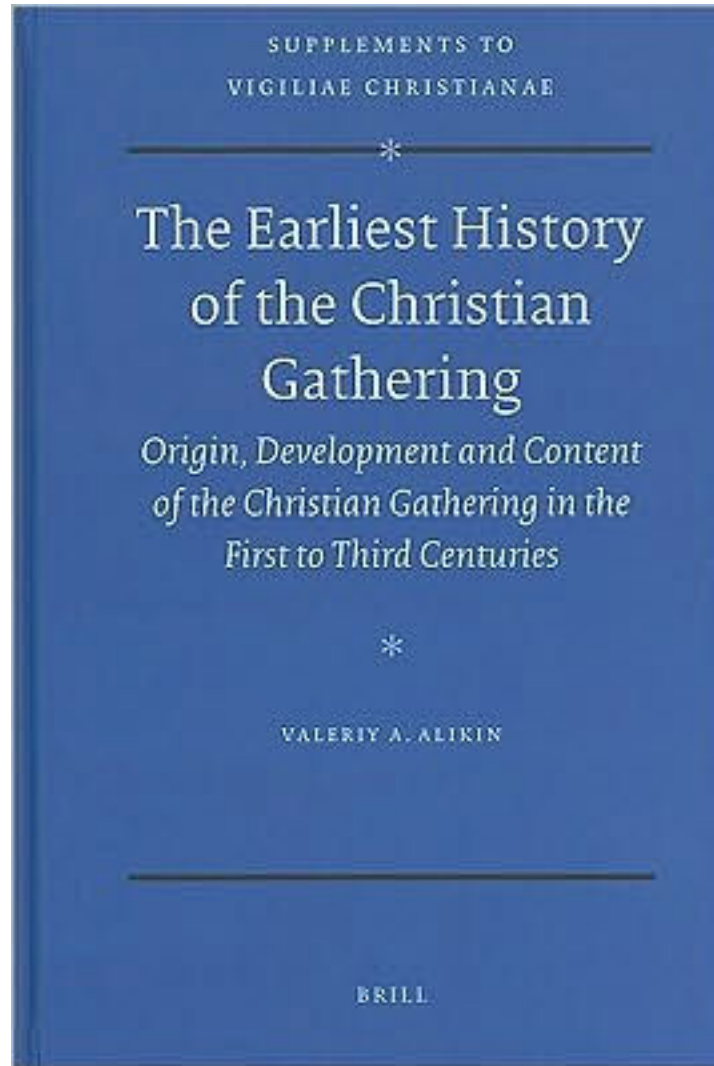
Read the passage: 1 Co 14.26

Think through the questions:

- In your church, does “each one” bring a contribution to the meeting?
- What holds people back from contributing?
- What are we losing out on, in terms of “building up?”

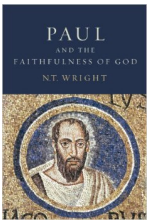


Meetings of the Early Church

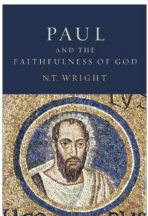
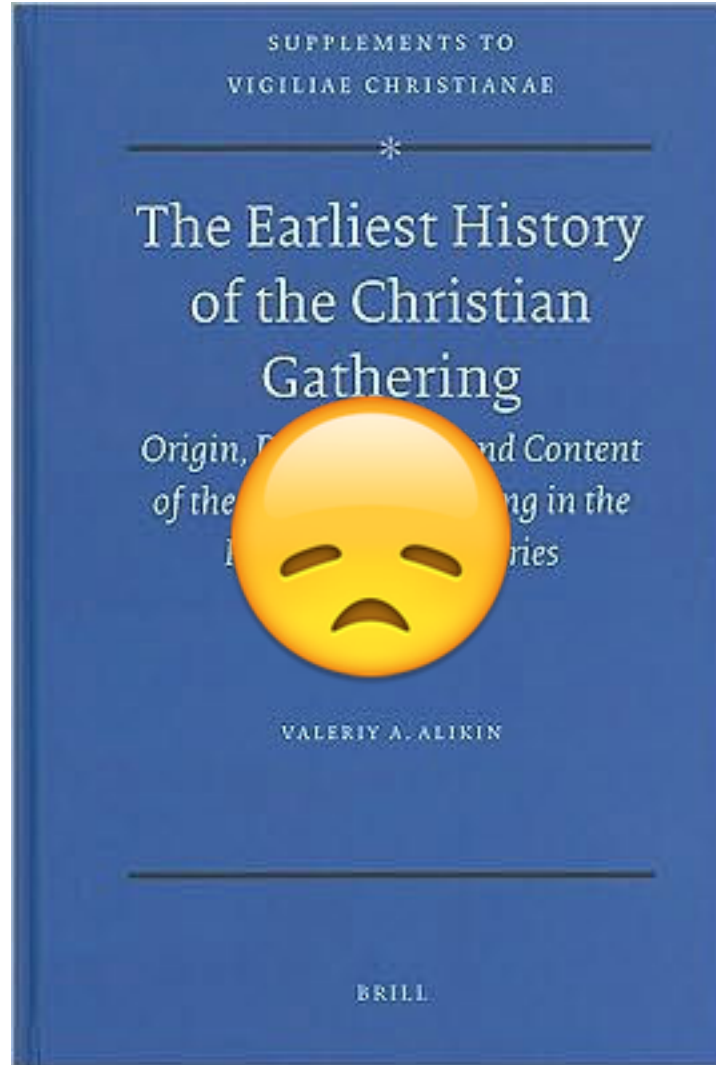


Meetings of the Early Church

- “The second part of the periodical gatherings of the Graeco-Roman associations consisted of a symposium. Similarly the Christian group supper in the first century CE was followed by a gathering in which drinking, singing and conversation could take place, speeches could be given and texts could be read aloud, more or less in accordance with what happened at other after-supper symposia.” Alikin 62 [...]
- Where “bring a teaching” occurred!

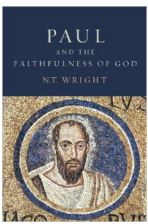


Meetings of the Early Church



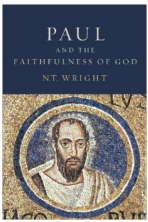
Bringing a Contribution

- 1 Co 12.1, 7-11: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.”



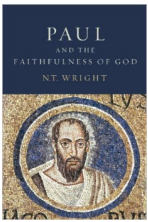
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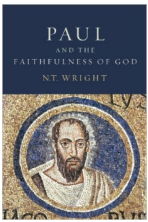
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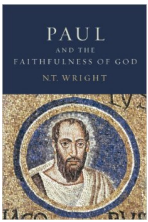
Bringing a Contribution

- To each!
- For the common good!
- Why do we assume it's only *to some*?
- Types of gifts (not exhaustive):
 - Utterance of wisdom; utterance of knowledge; faith; healing (!); miracles (!); discernment of spirits; tongues; interpretation of tongues
- The point: variety! To *each*! For the common good!

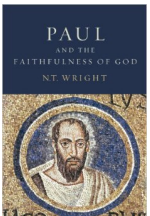


Bringing a Contribution

- Objection:
- “But Caleb, you don’t understand! I’m not like you!”
- 1 Co 12.4-7: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **To each** is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**”

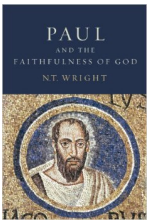


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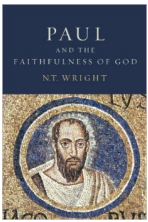
Bringing a Contribution

- 1 Co 14.26: “What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”



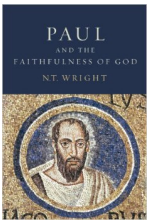
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Bringing a Contribution

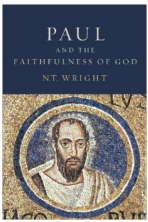
- 1 Co 14.26: “What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done **for building up.**”
- Types of contribution (not exhaustive):
 - Hymn, lesson, revelation, tongue, interpretation



Bringing a Contribution

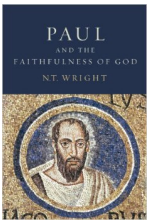
- The point here:
 - We all bring contributions
 - For the building up of the body

- “But Caleb, I’m not like you!”



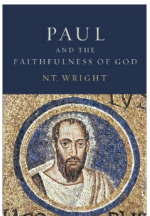
Bring a Contribution

- Types of contribution (not exhaustive):
 - See 1 Co 12.1-11, 1 Co 14.26, Ro 12.3-8
- Be creative!
 - Each one! For building up!
- Types of contribution
 - Bring a question
 - Bring a reading
 - Bring a learning
 - Bring an observation
 - Bring a struggle
 - Bring a song (various expressions)



Bring a Contribution

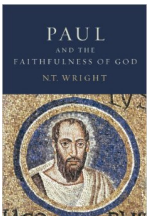
- At the very, very minimum: bring participation
- The symposium *is all the early Christians had!!*



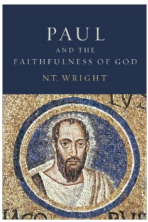
Think Through the Issue

Issue: what inhibits contribution

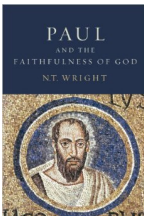
- What holds people back from contributing to the meeting?
- What can we do to facilitate contribution?
- What will the effect of full contribution be?



Bring a Contribution



Bring a Contribution



Bring a Contribution

Ep 4.11-16: “The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,** until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as **each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.**”

