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978-1-107-04637-5 - Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy

Timothy A. Brookins

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**CORINTHIAN WISDOM, STOIC PHILOSOPHY,
AND THE ANCIENT ECONOMY**

This work reexamines the divisive wisdom Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians. Challenging the recent consensus that the Corinthians' wisdom was rooted primarily in the Greco-Roman rhetorical tradition, Timothy A. Brookins offers a revisionary thesis centered on a striking pattern of discourse similarities between the perspective of the Corinthian "wise" and the Stoic system of thought. Brookins argues that several members of the church, after hearing Paul's initial gospel message, construed that message in terms of Stoic philosophy and began promoting a kind of "Stoic-Christian" perspective that helped precipitate divisions in the church. Being apprised of their views, Paul then exploited the "Stoic" discourse of his opponents in order to sustain common discursive ground. In addition to providing a fresh synthesis of the data in 1 Corinthians, Brookins brings in cutting-edge research on the ancient economy as he explores questions related to philosophical education and social status within the church community.

TIMOTHY A. BROOKINS is Assistant Professor of Classics at Houston Baptist University. His research focuses on New Testament backgrounds, with a primary emphasis on the Pauline epistles. He has published articles in numerous journals, including *New Testament Studies*, *The Journal of Theological Studies*, and *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*.

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To Mary Mac
who has shown me daily that love is more excellent than human wisdom
Amor omnia vincit

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AE</i>	<i>Archaioiogike Ephemeris</i>
<i>Brev. vit.</i>	<i>De Brevitate Vitae</i>
<i>Corinth VIII</i>	<i>Corinth: The Inscriptions 1926–50</i> . Edited by J. H. Kent. Princeton, 1966.
D. L.	Diogenes Laertius
<i>De diff. puls.</i>	<i>De differentia pulsuum</i>
<i>IGRR</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes</i> . Edited by R. Cagnat. 3 vols. Paris, 1906–27; repr. Chicago, 1975.
<i>ISmyrna</i>	<i>Die Inschriften von Smyrna</i> . Edited by G. Petz. Bonn, 1982–90.
<i>IStratonikeia</i>	<i>Die Inschriften von Stratonikeia</i> . Edited by Sahin. Bonn, 1981–90.
<i>IvO</i>	<i>Die Inschriften von Olympia</i> . Edited by W. Dittenberger, K. Purgold. Berlin, 1896.
LS	Long, A. A. and D. N. Sedley, eds. <i>The Hellenistic Philosophers</i> . 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
<i>Mor.</i>	<i>Moralia</i>
NT	New Testament
<i>Or.</i>	<i>Orationes</i>
<i>PAA</i>	Traill, John S. <i>Persons of Ancient Athens</i> . Vol. 7: ERAGINOS TO EON-. Toronto: Athenians, 1998.
<i>TAM</i>	<i>Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et latina conscripti</i> . Edited by E. Kalinka. Vienna, 1920–44.

All other abbreviations follow the Society of Biblical Literature *Handbook of Style*.