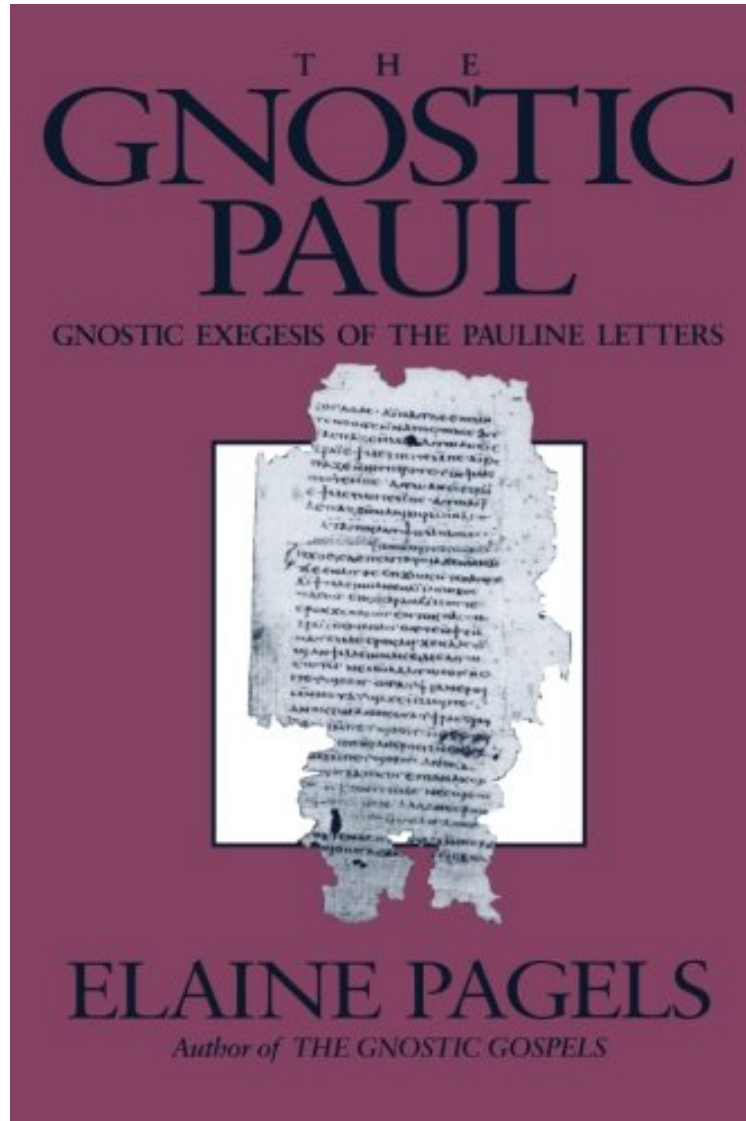


(Pdf free) The Gnostic Paul: Gnostic Exegesis of the Pauline Letters

The Gnostic Paul: Gnostic Exegesis of the Pauline Letters

Elaine Pagels

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Elaine Pagels : The Gnostic Paul: Gnostic Exegesis of the Pauline Letters before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gnostic Paul: Gnostic Exegesis of the Pauline Letters:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must read! By hamrWhew! Not for the entrenched "Christian" - will knock off any religious socks that you have left. Spirit inspired and worth the read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An eye-opener By Rev. David Price Doctor Pagels has given us an exciting opportunity to look into the dynamic culture of the early Christian church. Up until the last 30 years, we saw everything as being historically

seamless. Her work on Paul and other explorations of early Gnostic writings as found in the Nag Hammadi library have opened the windows. We begin to see how the dominant Roman centered Christian church powered by bishops suppressed the inclusive, philosophical, learned Christian expression of a pluralistic branch of the Christian church in favor of a literalist understanding of scripture and male dominance. This more democratic group of Christians were labeled heretics and Gnostic because they saw Christian expression and the Christian story as part of the greater metaphorical tradition of heroic spirituality. I commend this book to any reader who is on an inquisitive journey and willing to take a critical look at early Christian beginnings and Paul's Gnostic vision. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not bad but the truth is that there was nothing "gnostic" ...By novoneiro Not bad but the truth is that there was nothing "gnostic" about Paul. The author pretty much admits as much . . . eventually.

In this highly original work, Elaine Pagels demonstrates how evidence from gnostic sources may challenge the assumption that Paul writes his letters to combat "gnostic opponents" and to repudiate their claims to secret wisdom. Drawing upon evidence from the gnostic exegesis of Paul, including several Nag Hammadi texts, the author examines how gnostic exegetes cite and interpret key passages in the letters they consider Pauline - 1 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Hebrews. Besides offering new insight into controversies over Paul in the second century, this analysis of gnostic exegesis suggests a new perspective for Pauline study, challenging students and scholars to recognize the presuppositions-hermeneutical and theological-involved in their own reading of Paul's letters. Elaine H. Pagels is the Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University. She is the author of *The Gnostic Gospels*, which won the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, *The Johannine Gospel in Gnostic Exegesis*, *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent*, and the best-selling *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas*.

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