

Here is a topic that has long awaited to be carefully researched, as the subject matter has wrongly been regarded as in conflict with the eternal security of believers or not palatable for some contemporary discussions of the Christian life. Dr. Keith Krell has addressed the theme of God's remedial discipline of His children by carefully examining the relevant passages in 1 Corinthians and produced a coherent understanding of its nature that does not conflict with the security of Christians' salvation but repeats Paul's fair warning to all that this truth does not constitute a license to now live contrary to God's Word because "nobody tells me what to do." This is an immensely important book that all pastors and teachers should read in order to be faithful in teaching the whole counsel of God.

Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Winter  
Australian New Testament scholar

Dr. Keith Krell has taken on the "received opinion" of Paul's warning passages in 1 Corinthians and sent it back to the drawing board! Heretofore, the majority view of these texts has assumed an eschatological reading that renders the eternal security of sinning believers as in doubt, but Krell has judiciously argued to the contrary that Paul's exhortations are remedial in nature and pastoral in strategy. No serious interpreter of 1 Corinthians in particular and Pauline literature in general can afford to neglect Dr. Krell's contribution to the subject. His book will certainly be rightly ranked with the meticulous and now classic study by Judy Gundry Volf, *Paul and Perseverance*. I highly recommend Krell's book to the reader!

Dr. C. Marvin Pate  
Former Chair of Christian Theology, Ouachita Baptist University

Keith Krell has done all interpreters of 1 Corinthians a great service. With meticulous exegetical skill and impeccable scholarship, he has made a consistent review of those passages in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians that most interpreters would just as soon pass over quickly—the judgment passages. What does "God will destroy that person" mean (3:17b)? What does "hand over to Satan" mean (5:5)? And what does "Let him be anathema" mean (16:22)? Krell shows that each of these passages (and others like them) does not warn God's saved people that they can be eternally lost; rather, they serve as a stern but positive warning to the church to take their faith and Christian living seriously. Every pastor who is concerned about the discipleship and discipline of his flock should read this book.

The late Dr. Verlyn D. Verbrugge  
Senior Editor at Large, Zondervan; New Testament scholar and author

It is only recently that the indisputable distinction between inheritance and justification has been taken seriously in New Testament interpretation. It is an area which requires much more research. Dr. Keith Krell's work on 1 Corinthians must be considered as in the front line of such discussion. It is essential reading for theologians and biblical interpreters, and for "ordinary" Christians also. Its interpretations are convincing, and no serious expositor of 1 Corinthians should miss it.

The late Dr. Michael Eaton  
International Bible teacher, Chrisco Fellowship, Kenya

Dr. Keith Krell's treatment of these critical texts presents an option that is true to the text and true to the unconditional offer of eternal life. Crisp, accurate, and honest. This is the one you'll read when you have to answer some of the hardest questions a Christian will ask about his or her life or the lives of those we love.

Ed Underwood  
Former Senior Pastor, Church of the Open Door; Founder of the Recentered Group

Scholarly treatments of the judgment passages in 1 Corinthians have tended to minimize Paul's terminology that marks out all of his readers as those who have come to genuine faith in Christ. Dr. Keith Krell offers a persuasive and scholarly alternative. The readers have certainly experienced true salvation. But the punishment Paul describes for their weighty disobedience will be temporal judgment, not eschatological condemnation. The strength of this study is in how this exegesis brings consistency to all the warning passages in 1 Corinthians, including the final warning (16:22).

Dr. John F. Hart  
Former Professor of Bible & Greek, Moody Bible Institute

This work is an important contribution to the theological issues relating to Paul's understanding of judgment. Through a careful exegetical study of five judgment passages in 1 Corinthians, Krell argues that these warnings are addressed to genuine believers, especially the social elite in the congregation who, by their attraction to worldly wisdom and lack of love, are causing divisions. Paul does not threaten them with the loss of salvation, but rather with temporal punishments such as exclusion from the community, sickness, and death, as well as the loss of eternal special rewards. Clearly written and cogently argued, Krell's work succeeds at elucidating connections within 1 Corinthians that have gone largely unnoticed in the past. He makes an interesting case that Paul's use of judgment language in 1 Corinthians is coherent with Roman law, under which citizens enjoyed a high degree of security, but within which there were provisions for the punishment of inappropriate behavior. So, for Paul, the Corinthian Christians have been granted a highly secure salvation in Christ, but their factional behavior necessitates the remedial threat of temporal punishments.

Dr. David W. Kuck  
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