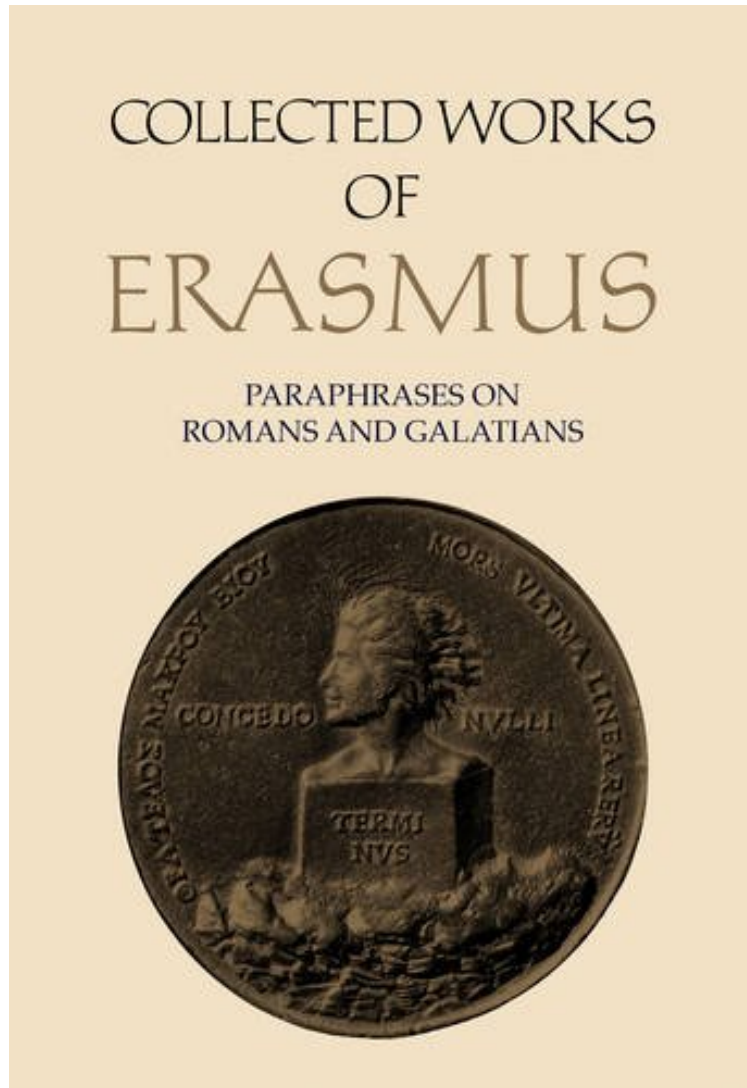


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## New Testament Scholarship: Paraphrases on Romans and Galatians (Collected Works of Erasmus)

*Desiderius Erasmus*  
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Erasmus yearned to popularize the New Testament, to make the Bible and the understanding of Scripture available to everyone to the farmer, the tailor, the mason, prostitutes, pimps, and Turks, in his words. He therefore composed paraphrases in order to simplify and explain Scripture. The Paraphrases were successful beyond his expectations and were quickly translated into French, German, English and other languages. In them the words of the Apostle Paul provide the core of a text which is expanded to clarify Paul's argument, revealing its assumptions, suggesting its implications, and setting its parts more clearly in relation to each other. In this respect, it is like a commentary. But the Paraphrases are much more than commentary. They seek not only to clarify, but also to enliven. They bring the reader to a direct confrontation with the Apostle himself by presenting the whole (both core words and expansion) under the persona of Paul, vividly portraying the Apostle's reactions to the situation to which he was responding in this letter. Erasmus takes the images and analogies through which Paul argues his case for justification through faith and expands them into colorful and dramatic vignettes of the inner spiritual struggle and victory of everyman. Volume 42 of the Collected Works of Erasmus series.

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin  
About the Author  
Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466-1536), a Dutch humanist, Catholic priest, and scholar, was one of the most influential Renaissance figures. A professor of divinity and Greek, Erasmus wrote, taught, and travelled, meeting with Europe's foremost scholars. A prolific author, Erasmus wrote on both ecclesiastic and general human interest subjects. Robert D. Sider is the Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus of Classical Languages at Dickinson College and an adjunct professor in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan.