Table of Contents

Preface .................................................... VII
Abbreviations ............................................ XIII

Part One
A New Perspective on Good Works ............... 1

Chapter One: Introduction ............................ 3
A. Modern Consensus of Good Works in 1 Peter .... 3
B. Problems and Unanswered Questions ............ 10
   1. Disconnect between Problem and Solution .... 10
   2. Methodological Flaws .......................... 11
   3. Lack of Specific Referent(s) ................. 13
C. Purpose of the Study .............................. 14

Chapter Two: Methodological Perspectives on Good Works in 1 Peter . . 16
A. Modern Approaches to the Social Strategy of 1 Peter .... 16
   1. Acculturation: David L. Balch ............... 17
   2. Distinctiveness and Solidarity: John H. Elliott . 19
   3. New Perspectives on 1 Peter ................. 21
B. Constructing a Methodological Approach ......... 24
   1. Postcolonial Criticism ....................... 25
      a. Defining Postcolonial Criticism .......... 25
      b. Applying Postcolonial Criticism ....... 28
   2. Social-Psychology of Coping ................. 31

Part Two
Good Works in the Hellenistic World .......... 37

Chapter Three: Good Works according to Hellenistic Standards .... 39
A. The “Noble and Good Man” in Greek Thought .... 39
   1. “Noble and Good” as an Indicator of Social Status 40
   2. “Noble and Good” as an Indicator of Moral Excellence . 46
B. Doing “Good” in the Hellenistic World ......... 49
# Table of Contents

1. Good Deeds ........................................................................... 51
2. Noble Conduct ..................................................................... 56
3. Doing Good .......................................................................... 58
4. Emulators of the Good .......................................................... 63
C. Conclusion ........................................................................... 66

## Chapter Four: Civic Benefaction and 1 Peter

A. Civic Benefaction in Roman Asia Minor ................................. 68
   1. Defining Civic Benefaction ................................................... 69
   2. The Nature of Civic Benefaction ........................................... 70
      a. Examining the Types of Benefactions Performed. ............. 71
      b. Locating the Participants Involved ................................. 73
         (1) The Cost of Civic Benefaction .................................. 73
         (2) The Rewards of Civic Benefaction ............................. 79
      c. Analyzing the Process of Negotiation ............................... 80
   B. Examining the Benefaction Theory in 1 Peter .................... 81
      1. Civic Benefaction and Social Conflict in 1 Peter ............ 82
      2. The Feasibility of Civic Benefaction in 1 Peter ............... 84
         a) The Economic Feasibility of Civic Benefaction ............ 84
            (1) Civic Benefaction from Slaves? ........................... 85
            (2) Collective Benefaction in 1 Peter? .................... 87
            (3) Economic Conditions within the Petrine Churches ... 90
         b) The Socio-Political Feasibility of Civic Benefaction ..... 96
   3. The Appropriateness of Civic Benefaction in 1 Peter .......... 100
C. Conclusion ........................................................................... 103

## Part Three

Good Works in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity .......... 105

## Chapter Five: Good Works in Ancient Judaism

A. The Socio-Political Use of Good Works ................................. 108
B. The Theological Use of Good Works ..................................... 112
   1. Diverse Emphases, Common Referent ................................. 112
      a. Good Works as Universal Code of Morality ................. 112
      b. Good Works as Diaspora Piety .................................. 116
      c. Good Works as Ceremonial Jewish Law ...................... 121
      d. Good Works as “Sectarian” Requirements .................... 124
   2. Diverse Outcomes, Common Function ................................. 132
C. Conclusion ........................................................................... 137
Chapter Six: Good Works in the New Testament

A. The Range of Usage in the New Testament
   1. The Socio-Political Use of Good Works
   2. The Theological Use of Good Works

B. Good Works in the Pastoral Epistles
   1. The Ethics of the Pastoral Epistles
      a. The Hellenistic Influence on the Ethics of the Pastorals
      b. The Christian Influence on the Ethics of the Pastorals
   2. Appropriating the Language of Good Works
      a. Good Works and Christian Distinctiveness
         (1) The Theological Value of Good Works
         (2) The Christian Referent of Good Works
      b. Good Works and the Strategy of the Pastoral Epistles

C. Conclusion

Part Four
Good Works in 1 Peter

Chapter Seven: Good Works and Popular Misconceptions in 1 Peter

A. Good Works in 1 Peter and Comparative Uses

B. The Optimism of Good Works in 1 Peter
   1. (Dis)honorable Conduct among the Gentiles (1 Pet 2.11-12)
   2. The Silencing of Detractors (1 Pet 2.14-15)

C. Conclusion

Chapter Eight: Calculated Conformity in 1 Peter

A. Establishing Levels of Accommodation
   1. High Accommodation
   2. Medium-High Accommodation
   3. Medium-Low Accommodation
   4. Low Accommodation

B. Subaltern Accommodation in 1 Peter
   1. Non-Retaliation against Abuse (1 Pet 2.18-20; 3.9)
   2. Submission within the Household (1 Pet 2.18-3.6)
   3. Honoring the Emperor (1 Pet 2.17)

C. Conclusion

Chapter Nine: Cautious Resistance in 1 Peter

A. Situating Resistance within Social Conflict

B. Defining Hegemony and Resistance
# Table of Contents

1. Hegemony .................................................. 218
2. Resistance .................................................. 219
C. Diagnosing Cautious Resistance in 1 Peter .................. 224
   1. Clarifying the Ontology of the Emperor (1 Pet 2.13) .......... 224
   2. Devaluing Imperial Authority (1 Pet 2.17) .................... 228
   3. Renouncing Social Norms (1 Pet 4.3–4) ...................... 233
   4. Embracing the Designation of Deviance (1 Pet 4.16) ......... 235
   5. Resisting Satanically-Inspired Opposition (1 Pet 5.8–9) .... 237
D. Conclusion .................................................. 243

Chapter Ten: Good Works as (Assimilated) Resistance in 1 Peter. 245
A. The Subversive Nature of Good Works in 1 Peter ............... 246
   1. Theological Dimensions of Good Works in 1 Peter ............. 246
      a. Good Works and Scriptural Foundations ..................... 247
      b. Good Works and the Connection with Christ .............. 249
      c. Good Works and the Antonym of Bad Deeds .............. 250
      d. Good Works and Eschatological Judgment ................. 251
   2. Good Works and Social Conflict in 1 Peter .................. 254
      a. Suffering the Consequences of “Doing Good” ............ 255
      b. Overlapping Social Standards and Social Conflict ...... 257
B. The Social Function of Good Works in 1 Peter ................ 260
   1. Diagnosing the Social Strategy of Good Works ............... 260
      a. External Function: Resisting from the Margins .......... 260
         (1) Identifying the Level of Resistance .................. 264
         (2) Identifying the Target(s) of Resistance ............. 266
      b. Internal Function: Disidentification through Symbolic Inversion 268
   2. Evaluating the Social Strategy of Good Works ............... 271

Conclusion .................................................. 275

Appendix One: Calculating the Disposable Income of Anatolian Christians ............................................. 280
   A. Expenses of a Middling Household in Roman Anatolia ........ 280
   B. Income of a Middling Household in Roman Anatolia ........ 291

Appendix Two: The Partitioning of Good Works in 1 Peter ......... 296

Bibliography .................................................. 299

Index .......................................................... 373