

The Centre for Anabaptist Studies 2021 Annual Lecture

24 November at 10.30am

Paul, Nachfolge Christi and Gelassenheit: Reading Paul with the Radical Reformers

Since the Reformation the dominant Protestant view has been that justification by faith is at the heart of Paul's theology. Anabaptists, whilst recognising the importance of justification by faith, insisted that true believers sought to follow the example of Jesus and that their faith resulted in transformed lives. The themes of *Nachfolge Christi* and *Gelassenheit* occur regularly in their writings. Whilst mainstream Protestants arguably made Paul and "the Christ of faith" central to their theology, Anabaptists insisted on the centrality of the Jesus of the Gospels. This lecture, however, seeks to challenge this simplistic notion of a "Protestant Paul" over against an "Anabaptist Jesus" and, by drawing on a sampling of sixteenth century Anabaptist writers, argues that Anabaptists saw Paul as a prime exemplar of both the imitation of Christ and true yieldedness. By drawing attention to these Anabaptist readings this lecture seeks to provide an Anabaptist contribution to contemporary debates surrounding the New Perspective on Paul.



Lloyd Pietersen first trained as a chartered accountant and served for many years as Treasurer of the Anabaptist Network. He left accountancy to become a teaching elder in a large church in Bristol where his teaching responsibilities led to a desire to pursue further academic training in biblical studies. His doctoral research was published as "The Polemic of the Pastorals: A Sociological Examination of the Development of Pauline Christianity." Lloyd is currently an honorary research fellow at Bristol Baptist College and editor of *Anabaptism Today*. He teaches two of the core modules on the MA programme at the Centre for Anabaptist Studies. He is also the author of *Reading the Bible After Christendom*. Lloyd is working on an academic monograph provisionally titled *Reading Paul with the Radical Reformers* and also hopes to write a volume on Paul for the 'After Christendom' series.

This lecture will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person. To register for this and receive the Zoom link, please go to <https://anabaptistlecture21.eventbrite.co.uk>

For further information about this lecture or any aspect of the Centre, please contact Stuart Murray Williams at anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk