

AFRICA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

DRIFTING LOYALTY: PATRON-CLIENT DYNAMICS AND RHETORIC IN  
GALATIANS

BY

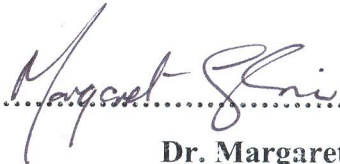
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## Abstract

This dissertation examines Paul's epistle to the Galatians in view of the Greco-Roman context of benefaction/patron-client relationships and dynamics. The study therefore proposes a new reading of Galatians in relation to this pervasive Greco-Roman institution. The study reveals that the Epistle to the Galatians may be understood against the drifting allegiance of his Galatian converts whom he sees as his clients that he has brought to divine benefaction through his brokerage. Paul sees his calling as divine χάρις entrusted to him only to broker the Gentiles into benefaction. He therefore employs rhetoric and language that his audience would have understood within the context of Greco-Roman patronage. We therefore propose and show in this study that Paul uses similar approach to rhetoric of patronal calling, praise and proselytism, grace, synkrisis, kinship, endangered benefactor, and loyalty to convince his clients to remain loyal to him and God. Such rhetoric and language was common within the pervasive Greco-Roman benefaction and patronage relationships. The study concludes by showing how the epistle can be structured around this patronage rhetoric and especially the rhetoric of patronal synkrisis. This study presents a new dawn to Galatian studies.