



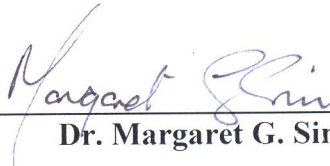
AFRICA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**BENEFACTION AND PATRONAGE IN THE PASTORAL EPISTLES:
INFLUENCES ON THE AUTHOR**


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the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation on “Benefaction and Patronage in the Pastoral Epistles: Influences on the Author” is a historical analysis of the epistles in the social context of benefaction and patronage in the first century CE. The core proposition is: *As Paul formulated and promulgated the instructions for guidance and administration of the PE churches, he utilized prudently the ideologies of Greek benefaction (εὐεργεσία), Roman patronage (patronicum) and Jewish kinship benefaction systems.* That fact is portrayed in his usage of principles and expressions that were common in the systems. Some previous studies have focused on what the scholars view as the PE author’s biased support for the corrupted systems. In this study however, the discussion is on how he interacted prudently with both the positive and negative principles of material and nonmaterial benefaction and patronage. Prime among other arguments is that, Paul encouraged the PE churches to function as good benefaction and patronage associations. His portrayal of God as the only God and saviour of all people and Christ as the only mediator between God and humans had patronal nuances. Likewise, from a patronal perspective, as the false teachers had abandoned sound doctrine and were destroying the faith and conduct of believers, they were rejecting and causing others to reject dependence on God and loyalty to him as the chief patron, and denying loyalty to Paul. In the PE churches also, there seems to have been laxity in giving benefaction, and in reciprocating for the same. Hence, together with confronting heresy and exhorting believers to adhere to sound faith, Paul exposed and confronted malpractice in the systems, encouraging positive participation.

Through field and library research, this study also assesses how the positive and negative principles of ancient and modern African patronage have influenced the Africa Inland Church, especially its leadership philosophy. AIC acknowledges that it bases its administration on PE principles. The study about Paul’s interaction with the positive and negative aspects of the first century benefaction and patronage systems enables the African biblical scholarship and church fraternities to read and apply the PE instructions with fuller understanding of the relationship between patronage and church leadership.