

Jesus and the Religions

Professor Paul Trebilco reviews *Jesus and the Religions: Retrieving a Neglected Example for a Multi-cultural World* by Rev. Dr. Bob Robinson.

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Jesus and the Religions: Retrieving a Neglected Example for a Multi-cultural World

Bob Robinson (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012)

"How should we live, as followers of Christ, in a multi-religious world?" This book argues that the example of Jesus has something fresh and helpful to say to those who ponder the question. It takes something old—the example of Jesus—to say something new to our pluralist world. Most of the book examines the meetings of Jesus with Gentiles and Samaritans. These are found in some of the most poignant and dramatic encounters and teaching in the Gospels: a synagogue address with near-murderous consequences; the healing of a pagan centurion's servant; the setting free of the afflicted child of a Gentile mother; a moving encounter at a Samaritan well; the unlikely story of a compassionate Samaritan—and more. One chapter draws a powerful parallel between Jesus' attitude to Samaritans and how Christians today should regard Muslims. This is a scholarly but accessible discussion of what it might mean

to "have the same attitude of mind that Christ Jesus had" (Phil 2) in our contemporary multi-religious world.

"How should believers live today in a multi-faith world? Dr. Robinson argues convincingly and passionately that Jesus' encounters with Gentiles and Samaritans give a vital example for us today. In a work richly informed by studies of the historical Jesus and the first-century world, by contemporary Christology, and a Christian theology of religions, Dr. Robinson shows that 'the imitation of Christ' can guide Christians in interreligious relations today. . . . Clearly argued and scholarly but highly accessible, this important and welcome contribution is a must for all who are interested in this vital area."

Paul Trebilco
Paul is a Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of Otago.

Email Bob (bobr@netaccess.co.nz) for details about a discounted price (NZ\$40 or \$44.50 posted) or for more details of the book itself.