

Clint Burnett has written a necessary introduction to inscriptions for New Testament students that has been lacking for some time. The opening chapter offers a very useful and appropriately detailed survey of the topic, and the following chapters offer helpful studies of various sorts. Each of these studies is directly relevant to the study of the New Testament and not only offers insights into these particular issues but suggests how inscriptions may be used for interpreting other passages and topics. I warmly recommend this work.

**Stanley E. Porter**  
**President, Dean, and Professor of New Testament**  
**Roy A. Hope Chair in Christian Worldview**  
**McMaster Divinity College**

Anyone interested in the civic life and religions of first-century CE Greco-Roman cities will treasure this book. It provides fascinating snapshots of that vast world of letters that were not confined in books and libraries but written on buildings, monuments, gravestones, coins, and even graffiti. Burnett has chosen some special examples in which this evidence sheds important new light on the New Testament. To encourage others in studying this underused resource, the appendices provide guides to the published collections of inscriptions as well as the extensive system of Latin abbreviations.

**PHEME PERKINS**  
**Joseph Professor of Catholic Spirituality**  
**Theology Department, Boston College**

With this book, Clint Burnett builds a bridge between two disciplines that have long ignored each other, epigraphy and New Testament studies. Inscriptions are and, with hundreds of new finds every year, will continue to be a crucial source for illuminating our understanding of many aspects of antiquity. Through five case studies ranging from lexicography, to onomastics, and to social history, Burnett demonstrates the relevance of considering epigraphic evidence for the language and social realities of the New Testament. As such, this book is a must-have for any student dealing with the study of early Christianity within its social, cultural, and political context.

**CÉDRIC BRÉLAZ**  
**Professor of Ancient History**  
**University of Fribourg, Switzerland**

Clint Burnett's remarkable book, *Studying the New Testament through Inscriptions*, explains how inscriptional evidence sheds fresh light on the values, thoughts, and beliefs of early Christians. In a variety of examples, he deftly demonstrates how this heretofore neglected evidence helps to solve *real*—philological, historical, and theological—problems. This book demonstrates not only the underappreciated role of inscriptions in the study of the New Testament, but also how they can enlarge our understanding of the life and witness of early Christianity.

**B. H. McLean**  
**Professor of New Testament Language and Literature**  
**Knox College, University of Toronto**

Dr. Burnett's work fills an important void left by many contemporary studies. This book on inscriptions stands in contrast to those more dominated by anachronistic, theoretical models as well as those that toss around artifactual references with little hope of readers understanding the nature and function of the particular artifact. Dr. Burnett's work is truly a *vade mecum* for inscriptions, primarily Greek and Latin. In this work the author both teaches about the nature, types, functions, etc. of inscriptions relevant for NT studies and also includes specific chapters with the application of inscriptions to NT topics and texts. The indices are extremely valuable both for those wishing to whet their appetite for this topic and also for those wanting to broaden their present skills.

This important work provides a major foundation stone in an approach to Scripture that believes the NT was not given birth in the empyreal realms of Christian doctrine, but rather in the workaday situations, experiences, and life of congregations of God and their leaders. These churches were filled with old and young, women and men, slave and free, ill and healthy, loyal and seditious, faithful believers as well as the faint of heart. Dr. Burnett's point, and his instinct is correct, is that many of the beliefs and experiences of the NT authors and the audiences written to and written about in the NT are far better understood by means of epigraphical resources and studies.

Inscriptions provide an indispensable and clearer lens through which we can view the larger world of these churches. Greek and Latin epigraphy provides the quintessential primary resources for an improved appreciation and understanding of the religious, political, and social contours of Greco-Roman civilization, without which one is doomed to view the NT through a besmudged lens.

**Richard E. Oster**  
**Professor of New Testament**  
**Harding School of Theology**

**STUDYING**  
*the*  
**NEW TESTAMENT**  
*through*  
**INSCRIPTIONS**

— **D. CLINT BURNETT** —

An Introduction



**HENDRICKSON  
ACADEMIC**

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To my beloved Gerilyn, who is to me as I am to her,  
and she is indeed עֲזָרִי

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