

Laudation of Professor Dr. Matthias Konradt

Professor Dr. Matthias Konradt is Professor Ordinarius at the University of Heidelberg, at the Faculty of Theology, in the area: „Neutestamentliche Theologie I: Exegese und Theologie des Neuen Testaments sowie antikes Judentum“, New Testament Theology: Exegesis and Theology of the New Testament – and Judaism in Antiquity.

Professor Konradt was born in 1967 in Bochum, Germany.

Between 1986-1993 he carried out theological studies in Bochum and in Heidelberg. Between 1993-1995 he was the scientific assistant at the University of Heidelberg at the side of Prof. Christoph Burchard.

In 1996 he had his Promotion (PhD).

Between 1996-1999 he was pastor in Bochum, and in 1999 he was ordained as pastor in Westfalen.

Between 1999-2003 he was scientific assistant in the special research area „Judaism – Christianity“ at the University of Bonn.

In 2002 he had his Habilitation in New Testament in Bonn.

Between 2003-2009 he was Ordinarius Professor of New Testament at the University of Bern, Switzerland – already at that time he took up scientific relationship with our Faculty of Theology and gave guest lectures for us.

Since October 2009, he is Ordinarius Professor of New Testament at the University of Heidelberg.

Between 2017-2019 he was Vice-Dean at the Theological Faculty in Heidelberg, and between 2019-2021 he was the Dean of the same Faculty.

Professor Konradt has been invited to give guest lectures at prestigious universities, may I mention here as an example that he was invited to give the Kenneth Clark Lectures at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina in 2024.

Professor Konradt is married to Dr. Beate Konradt, who is the leading librarian of the library of the Faculty of Theology in Heidelberg. Beate is also present here, we greet her here as well in the name of our Faculty.

Professor Konradt is leading editor of the famous journal „Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft“ (ZNW).

He was supervisor at 17 doctoral dissertations already successfully defended, and currently is the supervisor of 8 further dissertations.

There are several main areas in New Testament studies, in which he is a leading scholar of our days, just to name a few:

Pauline Epistles – in which area he has published monographs and papers, and currently is working on a monograph on Paul's life, letters and theology and on commentaries on Ephesians and 1Thessalonians.

Among the Gospels, his special focus is on the Gospel of Matthew: Professor Konradt has published not only monographs and numerous articles in this field, but also a major commentary in „Das Neue Testament Deutsch“ („NTD“) series, already published also in a second, enlarged edition, and also translated into English and French languages.

Recently, in 2022, his major work has been published: „Ethik im Neuen Testament“, Ethics in the New Testament, a 540-page-strong volume in this very important area, which also shows how scientific work is not an end in itself for Professor Konradt, but he serves with his scholarship Christian life today. Although ethics is of the highest importance for the life of the church, it is an area in which we missed such a great work for about two generations; for example, Wolfgang Schrage's „Ethik des Neuen Testaments“ was published 40 years before Professor Konradt's „Ethik im Neuen Testament“. This recent book of his is also already in the process of being translated into English.

May I here mention only a few titles from Professor Konradt's extraordinarily wide range of writings, in chronological order:

His major monographs are:

- *Christliche Existenz nach dem Jakobusbrief*. Eine Studie zu seiner soteriologischen und ethischen Konzeption, StUNT 22, Göttingen 1998, 406 Seiten
- *Gericht und Gemeinde. Studien zur Bedeutung und Funktion von Gerichtsaussagen im Rahmen der paulinischen Ekklesiologie und Ethik im 1 Thess und 1 Kor*, BZNW 117, Berlin – New York 2003, XIII + 641 Seiten
- *Israel, Kirche und die Völker im Matthäusevangelium*, WUNT 215, Tübingen 2007, XI + 493 Seiten,
its reworked English translation has also been published: *Israel, Church, and the Gentiles in the Gospel of Matthew*, translated by Kathleen Ess, Baylor – Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity, Waco (TX) 2014, XIII + 485 Seiten
- *Das Evangelium nach Matthäus*, NTD 1, Göttingen 2015, XVI + 507 Seiten; 2. überarbeitete Aufl. 2023, XVII + 510 Seiten,

its reworked English translation has also been published: *The Gospel according to Matthew. A Commentary*, translated by M. Eugene Boring, Waco (TX) 2020, xvii + 462 Seiten,

its French translation has also been published: *L'évangile selon saint Matthieu*, traduit de l'allemand par Phillipe Nicolet, CNT Ib, Genève 2023, 503 Seiten

- *Studien zum Matthäusevangelium*, in the WUNT series, vol. 358, Tübingen 2016, VIII + 488 Seiten
- *Ethik im Neuen Testament*, GNT 4, Göttingen 2022, XIX + 540 Seiten
- *Christology, Torah, and Ethics in the Gospel of Matthew*, translated by Wayne Coppins, Baylor – Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity, Waco (TX) 2022, XVI + 240 Seiten

May I mention with gratitude that Professor Konradt has donated some of his books to our library and also to me, which is a special honour to us (needless to say, that our colleagues and students may also use the books I have received from him).

The scientific papers of Professor Konradt are also numerous, their full list is available at the website of the University of Heidelberg, here I only name a very few titles to show how many areas he has covered:

- Tora und Naturgesetz. Interpretatio graeca und universalier Geltungsanspruch der Mosetora bei Philo von Alexandrien, in: *Juden in ihrer Umwelt. Akkulturation des Judentums in Antike und Mittelalter*, hg. v. M. Konradt – R.C. Schwinges, Basel 2009, 87-112
- Die Christonomie der Freiheit. Zu Paulus' Entfaltung seines ethischen Ansatzes in Gal 5,13-6,10, *Early Christianity* 1 (2010), 60-81
- Stellt der Vollmichtsanspruch des historischen Jesus eine Gestalt „vorösterlicher Christologie“ dar?, *ZThK* 107 (2010), 139-166
- “Whoever humbles himself like this child ...”. The Ethical Instruction in Matthew's Community Discourse (Matt 18) and its Narrative Setting, in: *Moral Language in the New Testament. The Interrelatedness of Language and Ethics in Early Christian Writings*, hg. v. J. van der Watt – R. Zimmermann, WUNT II. 296, Tübingen 2010, 105-138 (*in überarbeiteter Fassung in: Matthias Konradt, Studien zum Matthäusevangelium* [s.o.], 381-412)
- Schöpfung und Neuschöpfung im Neuen Testament, in: *Schöpfung*, hg. v. K. Schmid, *Themen der Theologie* 4, Tübingen 2012, 121-184
- Bekehrung–Berufung–Lebenswende. Perspektiven auf das Damaskusgeschehen in der neueren Paulusforschung, in: *Ancient Perspectives on Paul*, hg. v. T. Nicklas–A. Merkt–J. Verheyden, *NTOA/StUNT* 102, Göttingen 2013, 96-120

- Faith. II New Testament, in: Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception, hg. v. D. C. Allison Jr. u.a., Volume 8, Berlin – Boston 2014, 691-701
- The Golden Rule, in: The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law, hg. v. B. A. Strawn, Volume 1, Oxford – New York 2015, 350-356
- Liebesgebot und Christusmimesis. Eine Skizze zur Pluralität neutestamentlicher Agapeethik, JBTh 29 (2014), 65-98 [erschienen 2015]
- Das Matthäusevangelium als judenchristlicher Gegenentwurf zum Markusevangelium, in: ders., Studien zum Matthäusevangelium, hg. v. Alida Euler, WUNT 358, Tübingen 2016, 43-68
- Die Rede vom Glauben in Heilungsgeschichten und die Messianität Jesu im Matthäusevangelium, in: ders., Studien zum Matthäusevangelium, WUNT 358, Tübingen 2016, 261-287 (*erschienen ferner in: Glaube. Das Verständnis des Glaubens im frühen Christentum und in seiner jüdischen und hellenistisch-römischen Umwelt*, hg. v. J. Frey – B. Schließer – Nadine Ueberschaer, WUNT, Tübingen 2017)
- Die historisch-kritische Exegese und das reformatorische Schriftprinzip. Eine Reflexion über die Bedeutung der Exegese des Neuen Testaments in der Theologie, ZNT 39/40 (2017), 105-125
- Antipauliner oder Zeugen eines nichtpaulinischen Christentums? Kritische Überlegungen zum Verhältnis des Jakobusbriefes und des Matthäusevangeliums zur paulinischen Tradition, in: Receptions of Paul in Early Christianity. The Person of Paul and His Writings Through the Eyes of His Early Interpreters, hg. v. Jens Schröter – Simon Buttica – Andreas Dettwiler, BZNW 234, Berlin – Boston 2018, 675–728
- Gospel of Matthew, in: The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries, Vol. 1: From Paul to Josephus: Literary Receptions of Jesus in the First Century CE, hg. v. H. Bond, London u.a. 2020, 107–138
- „Deine Sünden sind vergeben“ (Lk 7,48). Die Vergebung der Sünden im Neuen Testament unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des lukanischen Doppelwerks und des Matthäusevangeliums, in: Die Rede von Gott Vater und Gott Heiligem Geist als Glaubensaussage. Der erste und der dritte Artikel des Apostolischen Glaubensbekenntnisses im Gespräch zwischen Bibelwissenschaft und Dogmatik, hg. v. Anne Käfer – Jörg Frey – Jens Herzer, Tübingen 2020, 425–453
- The Love Commandment in the Authentic Pauline Letters and Ephesians 5:2: An Intertextual Study in the Development of Agape Ethics in the Pauline Corpus, in: “To Recover What Has Been Lost”: Essays on Eschatology, Intertextuality, and Reception History in Honor of Dale C. Allison Jr., hg. v. Tucker Ferda et al., NT.S 183, Leiden 2020, 214–235

- Following Jesus and Fulfilling the Law. Considerations on the Ethical Conception of the Gospel of Matthew, in: The Gospel of Matthew in its Historical and Theological Context. Papers from the International Conference in Moscow, September 24 to 28, 2018, hg. v. Mikhail Seleznev – William R. G. Loader – Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, WUNT 459, Tübingen 2021, 257–294
- Matthew within or outside of Judaism? From the 'Parting of the Ways' Model to a Multifaceted Approach, in: Jews and Christians – Parting Ways in the First Two Centuries CE? Reflections on the Gains and Losses of a Model, hg. v. J. Schröter u.a., BZNW 253, Berlin – Boston 2021, 121–150
- Testamente der Zwölf Patriarchen, RAC 31 (2023), 1166-1181
- Love of Outsiders in the Johannine Writings? A Critical Evaluation of a Tendency in Recent Research on Johannine Ethics, in: The Ethics of John: Retrospect and Prospects, hg. v. Jan van der Watt – Matthijs den Dulk, BInS 227, Leiden 2025, 102-124

Professor Konradt has always gladly supported our students who studied in Heidelberg with the Erasmus scholarship, and he has served as hosting professor for many years to one of our professors in the realm of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's scholarship.

It is a great honour to our University that we can confer the title *doctor honoris causa* upon him. We do this also in the name of our Rector, Professor László Trócsányi, who asked me to convey his greetings as well.

Thank you.

(Presented by Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Peter Balla,
on the Dies Natalis of the Faculty of Theology,
Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary,
on 10th October, 2025)