

Summary

The present thesis, *Paul's Apostolic Existence. How to understand apostle Paul when he writes about apostle Paul*, investigates the issue of why Paul writes so frequently in his epistles about himself and his life. The search starts in 2 Cor 12:1–10 where Paul mentions Christ's answer to his prayer for recovery from sickness: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." This statement becomes the central point of the investigations. Their core part is exegesis of the relevant passages, mostly from Paul's letters to Corinth. The context is broadened by selected texts from the letters to the Philippians and to the Romans. In these texts, the apostle explains to the readers his own existence mainly by pointing out his weakness and suffering. The present thesis argues that Paul's motives for writing these texts should be looked for in his theology. He considers his recurring experience of God's power in weakness as instrumental in his mission to preach the gospel. The argument is supported by possibly precise description of the relation between Paul's apostolic existence and his preaching. This will show what benefit these texts can and should bring to their readers.