

Justification Rather than Forgiveness

This file contains questions only on pages 23—40 (section 2) of Krister Stendahl’s article “Paul among Jews and Gentiles” in the collection, *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles and Other Essays*.¹

Read the questions below, and think about how you would answer them if asked to do so on an exam.

1. Stendahl argues that *forgiveness* is not a major theme in Paul’s writings. On what basis does he make this argument? What evidence does he cite?
2. If forgiveness is not a major theme in Paul’s writings, how did it become a major theme in Christian theology? What does Stendahl say about this?
3. What theme does Stendahl argue really *is* present in Paul’s writings that later readers would read as if he had talked about forgiveness? On what basis does Stendahl make the argument for this other theme? What evidence does he cite?
4. What, according to Stendahl, is the letter to the Romans about? What issue was Paul trying to address in this letter?
5. Which chapters does Stendahl see as the “center of gravity” for the letter to the Romans? Why?
6. What does the Hebrew word *tsedaqah* mean, and how is it related to Paul’s argument in the letter to the Romans?

¹ Krister Stendahl, *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles and Other Essays* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976), pages 1—77.