

Study Questions on Roetzel, Chapter 5:
Paul and His Myths

1. What do Religion scholars mean by the term *myth*?
2. On page 120 Roetzel writes: “In the first century, the relationship of both peasant and philosopher to the natural world was closely personal. In two to three sentences, explain what Roetzel means.
3. What do Religion scholars mean by the term *cult*?
4. In what sense does Roetzel see baptism as a *mythic* activity? What does it mean to call baptism *mythic*?
5. How is the communion meal a *mythic* activity?
6. Roetzel makes the claim that Paul saw Jesus’ death as the model for the action of Christ’s followers in the world. Why does he say this? What evidence is there that Paul viewed Christ’s death in this way?
7. On page 127 Roetzel discusses six entities that Paul classified as the “powers that be.” What entities are these, and how did Paul view them?
8. Paul called Christ, *kyrios* (“Lord”). Why is this significant?
9. Roetzel dedicates five pages to Paul’s view of “the last Adam.” What three passages from Paul’s letters does Roetzel see as relevant to this topic, and what does each one contribute?