

A LOVING TRIBUTE TO
Prof. Joseph Pathrapankal, CMI



Birth: 29 September 1930
Ordination: 24 March 1958
Death: 27 February 2022

Rev. Prof. Dr. Joseph Pathrapankal, CMI (1930-2022), is an eminent Indian New Testament Scholar, a committed religious, a prolific writer and model teacher, who ceaselessly sought and discerned the “will of God” in the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature. He was an undisputed champion of ecclesiastical education after the model of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who spent his life almost four decades (1959-1961 & 1967-2003) at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK), the Pontifical Athenaeum of Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law, Bangalore, India! He has enlightened thousands of religious, priests, laity with his biblical and theological wisdom and touched the minds and hearts of students by his inspiring life and relentless academic pursuits.

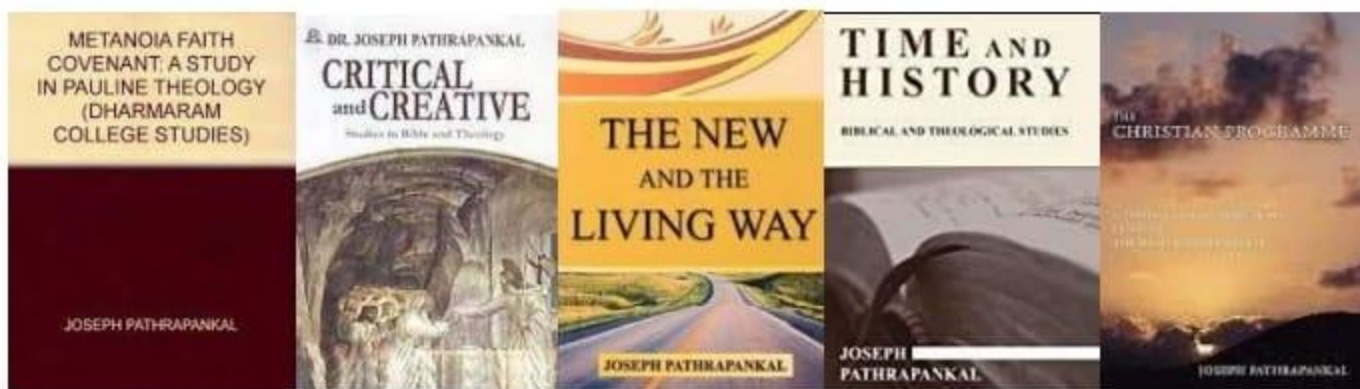
Prof. Pathrapankal studied his Master’s in Theology (M.Th.) at the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, and at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, where he obtained a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (LSS). He pursued his doctoral research in New Testament Studies at the Gregorian University (Rome), and defended his thesis entitled *Metanoia, Faith, Covenant: A Study of Pauline Theology*. On return to India, Dr. Joseph Pathrapankal became a Lecturer and Professor of New Testament at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, where he served in various capacities, like Vice-President (1976-1979), President (1979-1985) and Dean of the Faculty of Theology (1985-1991).

On May 30, 1997, Pathrapankal received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Theology, Uppsala University, Sweden. Prof. Pathrapankal was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. He served as the President of the Society for Biblical Studies in India (1972-74), and a Member of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*. As a member (since 1988) and the President (1981-2018) of the Theological Publications of India (TPI), he secured the rights for Indian Reprint of the books from reputed International Publishers, like Orbis, Harper Collins, Wipf & Stock, Liturgical Press, Ignatius Press, etc.

Prof. Pathrapankal is an acclaimed writer with several research books and scientific articles to his credits. His scholarly works reveal his mastery over the subjects, his

critical insights on the biblical motifs, and, above all, his personal and creative reflections on the characters and events of the Bible. His numerous publications proclaim the untold stories of his scholarship, great intellectual acumen and profound understanding of the Bible and the allied subjects. His most popular books are *Metanoia, Faith, Covenant: A Study in Pauline Theology* (1971); *Critical and Creative: Studies in Bible and Theology* (1986); *Text and Context in Biblical Interpretation* (1993); *The Christian Programme: A Theological and Pastoral Study of the Sermon on the Mount* (1999); *Time and History: Biblical and Theological Studies* (2002); *Foundational Perspectives in the New Testament* (2004); *Enlarging the Horizons: Studies in Bible and Theology* (2007); etc.

We, your students, pay our homage to our GURU!
We, your colleagues, are proud of YOU!
We, your confreres, carry on YOUR legacy!
We, all your brothers and sisters, mourn your sad demise
And pray for YOUR eternal rest and happiness!
+RIP



Fr. Kurian Kachappilly, CMI
President, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore
Sunday, February 27, 2022