



LARRY HURTADO



Larry W. Hurtado (1943-2019) was Emeritus Professor of New Testament Language, Literature & Theology at the University of Edinburgh. He was the author of 11 books and over 100 articles in journals, multi-author and reference works. His research ranged broadly on issues in New Testament textual criticism, physical/visual features of early Christian manuscripts, the Gospel of Mark, early Christian worship, and the origins and early development of devotion to Jesus.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Larry Hurtado moved to Canada shortly after finishing his PhD, initially teaching in Regent College (Vancouver), and then in the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg). During his time there, he founded the University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities. In 1996 he accepted the professorial chair in New Testament in the University of Edinburgh, where he founded the Centre for the Study of Christian Origins. Since his retirement in 2011, he remained active in research and publications dealing with various questions concerning the origins of Christianity.

His first book, *Text-Critical Methodology and the Pre-Caesarean Text* (Eerdmans, 1981) redrew the history of the textual transmission of the Gospel of Mark, and he continued to make contributions to New Testament textual criticism. More recently, he led in the study of the physical and visual features of earliest Christian manuscripts, as in his book, *The Earliest Christian Artifacts: Manuscripts and Christian Origins* (Eerdmans, 2005). He was perhaps best known for his numerous publications on the origins of devotion to Jesus, beginning with his 1988 book, *One God, One Lord: Early Christian Devotion and Ancient Jewish Monotheism* (3rd ed., Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015), and culminating in his programmatic study, *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity* (Eerdmans, 2003). He was widely credited with helping to establish what is now referred to as the emerging consensus view that devotion to Jesus as sharing in divine status erupted early, quickly, and initially in circles of Jewish believers.

In his 2016 Marquette Lecture, *Why on Earth did Anyone Become a Christian in the First Three Centuries?* (Marquette University Press, 2016), and in his book, *Destroyer of the Gods: Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World* (Baylor University Press, 2016), he focused on the distinctive nature of early Christianity in the ancient Roman setting. He was an elected member of the Society for New Testament Studies.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2008, and was President of the British New Testament Society, 2009-2012. He has given invited lectures in a number of colleges, universities, and symposia all over the world. Larry died of cancer on November 25, 2019.