

NEW TESTAMENT ABSTRACTS

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S. ROMANELLO, *L'identità dei credenti in Cristo secondo Paolo*, La Bibbia nella storia 22 (Bologna: Dehoniane, 2011, paper €22) 233 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-88-10-40274-0.

Romanello, author of *Una legge buona ma impotente. Analisi retorico-letteraria di Rm 7,7-25* (2000), examines the elements that characterize the identity of believers in the theology of Paul. After reflecting on how and why one might speak about the believer's identity, he discusses the event that gives rise to that identity: encounter with the risen Lord, and the death of Christ. Then he considers believers as justified and reconciled, believers as united with Christ and therefore children, and believers and the Mosaic Law. Romanello concludes that the Jewish dimension of Paul's identity was redefined (but not abandoned) by faith in Christ; and that the *ekklēsia* in Christ represented a unique phenomenon in the ancient Mediterranean basin.