

ABSTRACT

Is Paul's Turn to the Gentiles a Turn away from the Jews?

The Eschatological Context of Paul's Encounter with the Jewish Community in Rome and Accusations of an Anti-Jewish Bias in Acts

Rev. Msgr. Richard G. Henning, STD

At the close of Acts, Paul states for the third time that he will turn to the Gentiles. Does this turn towards the Gentiles represent a definitive turn away from the Jewish people? Some commentators have claimed that this is the intention of the text, and that the text is itself anti-Semitic. This article argues that this moment has an eschatological context in the narrative of Luke-Acts. It is not anti-Semitic or even anti-Jewish. Instead, this moment forms part of the urgent summons to conversion that Luke-Acts directs to all people, Jewish and Gentile.