

*Abstract*

The collection for Jerusalem plays a very important role in Paul's activities among his communities. The fact that he considers it important to inform the Christ-followers in Rome of his intention to actually deliver it in person to Jerusalem possibly indicates that he sees this not only as a means of poverty relief or to establish ecumenical solidarity between his gentile converts and the Jewish «Urgemeinde», but that there are also other issues at stake here. Without wishing to deny that all these aspects are part of the endeavour I propose to consider another dimension as playing a role that renders this project of decisive importance for Paul. Since his gentile converts had to refrain from any cult related activities to their former deities, an inconceivable vacancy was created in their everyday lives. For him and his fellow Jews this place was filled by the centre stage which Jerusalem and the Temple occupied. The possibility that Paul tried to establish a link for his gentile converts not only with the «Urgemeinde» but through this also with Jerusalem and the Temple as such should not be ruled out.

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