

A Comparative Study Of The Paraclete Statements And References To The Holy Spirit In The Johannine Gospel

By

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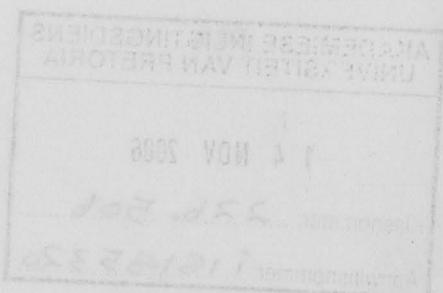


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The aims of the introductory chapter are sevenfold. Firstly, I intend to use it to sketch my methodology and the problem and the task. Secondly, I aim to demonstrate my conviction regarding the importance and uniqueness of the study. Thirdly, since this study is an exegetical study, I wish to address the issue of exegetical ambiguity. Fourthly, I desire to motivate my conviction that the study addresses the area of Pneumatological ambiguity. In the fifth instance, I wish to address the area of Johannine ambiguity. In the sixth instance, I wish to demonstrate my conviction of my choice to study the Gospel of John from both a literary and a hermeneutical perspective. Since this study is presented as a scientific study, I deem it important in the seventh instance to share the methodological procedure I plan to follow. And in the seventh instance I would like to outline the chapter design in order to make known where this study is heading.

4.1. The problem and the task

The subject of this dissertation is an exegetical analysis of the Paraclete sayings and a comparison of the concepts of the Paraclete and the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel. Taking into consideration the vast literature¹ published on the Johannine corpus, it might seem arrogant to present another study.² The position taken here, as inspiration for this study, is that as long as

¹ When you take O. Eng (1997:4-25), J. Blank (1994:317-322), G. Johnston (1970:80-116), F. Picard (1994:10-14 and 30-617) into account, it must stand at 60-80% that no consideration, there is already been enough motivation that Johannine studies makes attention in scholarly research. The *Johannine Bibliography* (hereinafter referred to as *Johannine*) by Prof. Felix Just, S.J., of Loyola Marymount University gives a good chronological indication of the continuity of literature published on Johannine literature since it was last updated on 12 June 2002. Another fact, the point must be that the overabundance of articles, monographs and dissertations on Johannine material are overwhelming.

² Yet, in Felix Just's bibliography statistics quite clearly, in comparison to other Johannine themes, surprisingly few were published during the last three decades on the Paraclete. See Just, 2002 and ATLA Religion Database, 2007.