

Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to crystallize the meaning of the word ‘godliness’ (*εὐσέβεια*) in the Pastoral Epistles. Being a *hapax legomena* in the New Testament, this word is misunderstood by modern critical scholars to contribute to the bourgeois attitude of the Pastoral Epistles and to discredit Pauline authorship. This study seeks to demonstrate the opposite. To achieve this aim, we begin with a background exploration of the epistles to establish the argument for Pauline authorship. This step serves to date the Pastoral Epistles in the lifetime of Paul so that the intention of Paul and the condition of the Ephesian church would render the bourgeois attitude irrelevant to the Pastoral Epistles.

Next, a discussion on the etymology of *εὐσέβεια* is carried out to assess the meaning of the word. This section focuses on the usage of the word *εὐσέβεια* in the writings apart from the Pastoral Epistles, which includes its usage in the Graeco-Roman world as well as in the Old Testament and the New Testament. These discoveries would further prove the occurrences of the word in places other than the Pastoral Epistles are also independent of the above-mentioned attitude.

The study is then focused on the occurrence of the word *εὐσέβεια* in the Pastoral Epistles where an exegesis is done on every verse containing this word. The context of each verse is taken into consideration so that the understanding of *εὐσέβεια* is not out of context. The findings of the exegesis are then brought together in the final chapter to form an understanding of *εὐσέβεια* in the Pastoral Epistles. This final step demonstrates that the understanding of *εὐσέβεια* is not only incongruent with the allegation of the critical scholars but carries an important implication to the true Christian faith.