

Carl J. Classen

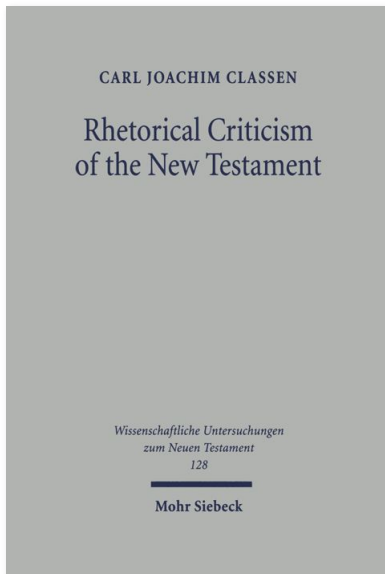
Rhetorical Criticism of the New Testament

[Rhetorical Criticism of the New Testament]

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In view of the current debate on the application of Greek and Roman rhetoric to biblical texts C. Joachim Classen aims at determining both the opportunities and the limits of such forms of criticism, stressing the importance of supplementing the ancient categories by modern ones. He emphasizes the difference between letters such as Paul's epistles and other kinds of texts, for example the gospels, and the need to select the aspects and criteria of rhetorical criticism accordingly and tries to illustrate how such criticism may be practised. In addition he answers the question to what extent Paul was familiar with Greek rhetoric by an examination of his vocabulary and analyses at length Melanchthon's early lectures, his handbooks and his commentaries to show some of the roots of this type of criticism, the manner in which its greatest exponent developed it and the qualities ideally required for its successful application.

Carl J. Classen Born 1928; studied Classics at the universities of Hamburg, Göttingen and Oxford; 1952 Dr. phil; 1961 Habilitation; 1961-66 Docent in Göttingen; 1966-69 Professor of Classics at the Technische Universität Berlin, 1969-73 in Würzburg, 1973-93 in Göttingen; since 1993 Professor emeritus.



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