

Alexander Negrov

Biblical Interpretation in the Russian Orthodox Church

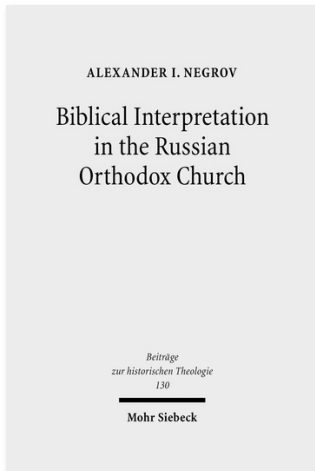
A Historical and Hermeneutical Perspective

[Bibelinterpretation in der russisch-orthodoxen Kirche. Eine Untersuchung aus historischer und hermeneutischer Perspektive.]

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In the majority of western pre-modern and modern handbooks and surveys of the history of biblical scholarship, Eastern Orthodoxy is mostly and habitually dismissed. A clear orientation towards the western branch of the Christian church is maintained throughout. However, as the Russian Orthodox church is an organic part of the universal church this book attempts to assist in the Orthodox-Protestant interactions and serves as an introduction to Russian Orthodox hermeneutics. Alexander Negrov surveys the development of biblical interpretation within the history of the Russian Orthodox church from the Kiev period of its history (tenth to thirteenth centuries) until the Synodal period (1721–1917). The purpose of his study is to present a coherent analysis of the essential elements of Orthodox biblical hermeneutics as it developed over a period of several centuries which were critical to the defining of the Orthodox church and to present a case study of hermeneutical approach to the New Testament of D. I. Bogdashevskii (1861–1933). The main hermeneutical features of the Russian Orthodox church show that the church and tradition are the indispensable guides to the understanding of Scripture. Christ is considered as the beginning, centre, and end of biblical interpretation and exegesis is based upon cooperation between the Holy Spirit and the human interpreter. The church demands reading of the Scriptures guided by church dogmatics as well as a multi-discipline approach to the text.

Alexander Negrov Born 1966; MA in Old and New Testament from Briercrest Biblical Seminary (Canada); PhD (University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa); Extraordinary Lecturer in New Testament at the University of Pretoria, Professor of New Testament and Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs at St Petersburg Christian University.



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