

Anne Burgsmüller

Die Askeseschrift des Pseudo-Basilios

Untersuchungen zum Brief »Über die wahre Reinheit in der Jungfräulichkeit«

[Pseudo-Basilios' Writings on Asceticism]

Published in German.

Anne Burgsmüller studies a letter written by a bishop in Asia Minor in the 4th century, a letter which gives young people advice based on philosophy and the Bible on how to live a Christian life. Due to its frankness in dealing with questions of sexuality, this letter was forgotten when letterpress printing began. For a long time, it was thought that the letter had been written by the homoiousian bishop Basilios of Ancyra. The lack of theological reflection in this letter and the vivid language however are reminiscent of Messalian theology, which emphasizes the mystical unity with God. The author shows how Gregory of Nyssa used this letter when he was writing *De virginitate*, and compares it with other writings on virginity.

Anne Burgsmüller Geboren 1973; Mitarbeiterin am Lehrstuhl »Alte Kirchengeschichte und Patrologie« der Universität Freiburg; 2003 Promotion; Lehrerin für Katholische Religion und Deutsch.



2005. XI, 477 pages. STAC 28

ISBN 978-3-16-148657-9
sewn paper 104,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-158670-5
eBook PDF 104,00 €

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