

Lyn M. Kidson

Persuading Shipwrecked Men

The Rhetorical Strategies of 1 Timothy 1

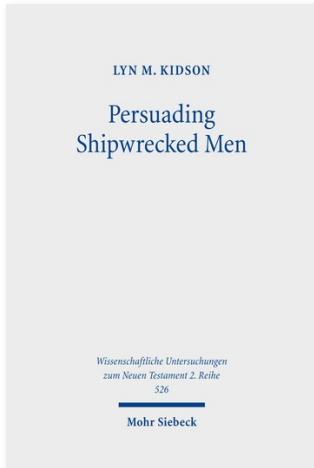
[Wie man schiffbrüchige Männer überzeugt. Die rhetorischen Strategien in 1 Timotheus 1.]

Published in English.

The plain-spoken rhetorical style of 1 Timothy belies a tension that simmers beneath the surface of the letter. This tension had already erupted in the removal of Hymenaeus and Alexander. Those who are addressed in the letter are warned that they may be heading toward the same catastrophic failure, shipwrecking their faith. This, according to Lyn M. Kidson, is the primary purpose of 1 Timothy. With particular focus on 1 Timothy 1, the author moves away from seeing the letter as a church manual; instead, she argues that its purpose is to command »certain men (and women)« not to teach the other educational program promoted by Hymenaeus and Alexander. This fresh approach to the interpretation of 1 Timothy 1 identifies the use of an ethical digression, which holds the seemingly divergent materials of the letter together.

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2020. XVI, 327 pages. WUNT II 526

ISBN 978-3-16-159234-8
sewn paper 84,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-159235-5
eBook PDF 84,00 €

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