

The dissertation entitled „Freedom in the Letter to the Galatians: Eleutheria as a Soteriological Metaphor“ deals with the old Greek notion of freedom (eleutheria) from the perspective of one epistle of the apostle Paul. The aim of the study is to examine the thesis if, and to what degree, freedom is a soteriological metaphor in the letter to the Galatians. An exegetical-theological analysis all eleutheria statements in the letter is preceded by chapters on (§1.) the history of research, (§2.) basic definitions of the polysemous notion freedom, and (§3.) setting the letter in its literary and historical context. In the main part of the thesis five sections and arguments are examined in which we find altogether 11 eleutheria statements (Ga 2,3-5, 3,26-29; 4,21-31; 5,1 a 5,13-15). The analysis of all eleutheria statements provides the basis to answer the main research question: Is freedom in Galatians a soteriological metaphor? Chapter five (§5.) focuses on Pauline soteriology, offering a fundamental delimitation of the metaphor and integrates freedom among the key soteriological metaphors in the letter Galatians and in Pauline theology. The conclusions of the research are summarized in chapter six (§6). The New Testament study presented here relates to broader themes of interest: the religious/biblical language, soteriological metaphors in the Pauline theology, biblical ethics and the definition of Christian freedom.