CHAPTER TWO

CATEGORIZATION AND EVALUATION OF APPROACHES TO THE STRUCTURE OF HEBREWS

INTRODUCTION

As observed in Chapter 1, a lack of consensus marks the current state of discussions on the structure of Hebrews. Scholars in the past one hundred years have offered schemes with two, three, four, five, six, seven, and even more, primary divisions. Yet even among those who agree on the number of main sections, confusion concerning important dividing points abounds, as demonstrated in fig. 8.

For example, Simon Kistemaker considers the exhortation at 2:1-4 to form a unit with the exposition which follows in 2:5-18. James Swetnam, D. Eduard Riggenbach, and Bernhard Weiss, however, consider 2:1-4 to be the hortatory conclusion to the argument in chapter 1. Albert Vanhoye and Rafael Gyllenberg consider

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2 Cf. the chart by Walter Übelacker in Der Hebräerbrief als Appell, 46.
Fig. 8. Approaches to the structural divisions of Hebrews.