"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON; LISTEN TO HIM": THEOLOGY AND CHRISTOLOGY IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

C. DREW SMITH
smithd@obu.edu
Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71998

of investigating so-called christological titles used in reference to Jesus in the Gospel. And still others have utilized the methods from literary criticism to discuss the presentation of Jesus as a character within the narrative of Mark's story.

What has been neglected, however, is the analysis of Mark's Christology as an aspect of the narrative's theology. To be sure, a hand full of scholars has recognized the need for viewing NT Christology within the framework of theology proper. Yet, no one to my knowledge has taken up a thorough inquiry of Mark's Christology as an aspect of Mark's theology.

My intention, therefore, is to open for investigation the presentation of Jesus in Mark's Gospel as an aspect of the presentation of God within the narrative. It is my view, that Mark's Christology is better

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2In a 1986 article, Leander Keck called for a renewal of New Testament Christology stating, "the time is at hand to take up again what was set aside—an explicitly theological approach to NT Christology, one which will be informed by the history of ideas but which will deliberately pursue Christology as a theological discipline" ("Toward the Renewal of New Testament Christology," NTS 32 [1986]: 362). Keck also defined "Christology" as "a comprehensive term for the statement of the identity and significance of Jesus" (ibid.). Moreover, he argued that New Testament Christology must be exactly that, "christology as it appears, or is implied, in the NT" (371). Along these same lines, Schubert M. Ogden argued that the prior question to "Who is Jesus?" is "Who is God?" (The Point of Christology (New York: Harper & Row, 1982), 25). Ogden seems to suggest in his discussion that the central point of Christology is to answer this prior question. In my analysis of Mark's Christology, I am following somewhat Keck's suggestions concerning the growing debate over methodological approaches to the study of Christology, as well as Ogden's arguments regarding the theological question Christology answers. On the other hand, I am also seeking to address the christological question theology answers in terms of Mark's presentation of Jesus as an aspect of his presentation of God. See also Wilhelm Thüsing, "Christology and Theology: The Christologically Determined Theology of the New Testament," in A New Christology (ed. K. Rahner & W. Thüsing; New York: Seabury Press, 1980), 85-159.


4This article is a revised portion of a chapter from my current doctoral thesis. In my thesis I am seeking to investigate the presentation of God in Mark's narrative, and how this presentation influences an audience's understanding of Christology and discipleship as aspects of Mark's overall theological presentation. I would like to express appreciation to my doctoral supervisor, Prof. Larry Hurtado of the University of Edinburgh, for his helpful guidance and insightful suggestions regarding both my thesis and this article.