

Matt Rose, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary- **Orthodoxy and Heresy: The Orthodox Response to Montanism and its Implications on the Bauer Thesis**

This study surfaces as more of a test case than an exhaustive study in itself. It, however, begins to ask the question, “How did heresy develop?” The early church historians (i.e. Epiphanius and Eusebius) have provided a lens through which to view early church heresies, but they failed to give the whole picture. This, in turn, has enabled skeptical scholarship to fill in gaps and build ‘orthodoxy’ up as the suppressor of heterodox teachings. Montanism has historically been considered a heresy, but under a more detailed investigation presents itself more as a radical adaptation of orthodoxy than a heresy. This study proposes several possible origins for the Montanist movement and analyzes the orthodox response to it in order to establish a better picture of theological development in the first three centuries.