

MISCELLANEA

**CRITICA TEXTUALĂ A NOULUI TESTAMENT  
ȘI IMPORTANȚA SA PENTRU DEZVOLTAREA STUDIILOR  
BIBLICE ȘI ISTORICE**

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**TEXTUAL CRITICISM OF THE NEW TESTAMENT  
AND ITS IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIBLICAL  
AND HISTORICAL STUDIES**

*Abstract*

The textual criticism of the New Testament is based on the so-called ‘standard text’ of the critical editions, including the most important witnesses. In spite the fact that the text of the New Testament contains more variants than that of any other body of ancient literature, we don’t have today a document of the original manuscripts. Therefore, the main task of the textual critic is to choose that reading which is most likely to be the autograph or most primitive form. The textual scholar, who is working from within the Christian tradition, must be, in a certain sense, not only a textual critic but a church historian, a historian of Christian thought and a theologian as well. His attitude toward the Scripture is also determined by the time, place and religious community from which the document derives. The textual criticism is an art as well as a science and demands that each set of variants be evaluated in the light of the fullest consideration of both external evidence and internal probabilities, in order to establish the age, the type and the theological importance of it.

**Cuvinte cheie:** *criticism textual, variantă, autograf, arhetip, familie textuală*

**Key words:** *textual criticism, variant, autograph, archetype, textual family*