

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS**

**THE METAPHORICAL USE OF “CALL” BY PAUL: ROMANS AS  
A TEST CASE**

**FIVA SAVKOVIĆ**

Ongoing dissertation at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the University of Belgrade, Serbia.

**Keywords:** metaphor, speech act, calling, Romans.

**Project Abstract:**

Modern studies of the Pauline epistles have long noted the importance of metaphor as an element of Paul’s thought and expression. In the words of Richard B. Hays, “*Paul, the missionary preacher, is at least as much poet as he is theologian* [...] throughout his writings, Paul’s language sparkles with the veiled energy of metaphor and allusion.”<sup>1</sup> James Dunn notes that among the various metaphors employed in Paul’s discourse, the term *καλεῖν* is one of the apostle’s more significant soteriological metaphors which originate from everyday life of his lifetime, but he does not explore this important idea further.<sup>2</sup> By contrast, Kristal Stendahl and others<sup>3</sup> have stressed the importance of Paul’s concept of “divine

<sup>1</sup> R. B. HAYS, “Introduction to the Second Edition”, in: *The Faith of Jesus Christ: The Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1–4:11*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids 2002, xxi–l, p. xxxiii. Italic is authorial.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. J. D. G. DUNN, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*, Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids 1998, 329.

<sup>3</sup> Cf., for example, K. STENDAHL, “Call Rather Than Conversion”, in: *Paul among Jews and Gentiles, and Other Essays*, Fortress Press, Philadelphia 1976, 7–23; B. R. GAVENTA, *From Darkness to Light*, Fortress Press, Philadelphia 1986; A. F. SEGAL, *Paul the Convert: the Apostolate and Apostasy of Saul the Pharisee*, Yale University Press, Yale 1990; E. KOBEL, „Paulus in seiner Welt“, in: *Paulus als interkultureller Vermittler: Eine Studie zur kulturellen Positionierung des Apostels der Völker*, Verlag Ferdinand Schöningh, Paderborn 2019, 65–132. C. STRECKER, *Die liminale Theologie des Paulus: Zugänge zur paulinischen Theologie aus kulturanthropologischer Perspektive*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen 1999. Although I. Hussey stresses importance of call metaphoricality in his study of Paul’s soteriological use of call, he doesn’t go deep into it. Cf. I. HUSSEY, *The Soteriological Use of Call by Paul and Luke*, ACT Monograph Series, Oregon 2018.