

**THE USE OF THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS BY
ST. BASIL THE GREAT IN THE TREATISE
*Περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος***

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Abstract. Throughout his treatise on the Holy Spirit, St. Basil of Caesarea argues that the Holy Spirit must be given the same honor and glory as the Father and the Son. The baptismal formula (Matthew 20:19) is crucial to his argument, for it reveals that the Holy Spirit is inseparable from the Father and the Son. The Spirit participates with the Father and the Son in all divine activity, from the creation of angelic beings to the final judgment. To demonstrate the divine status of the Holy Spirit, St. Basil uses more than four hundred quotations, allusions, echoes, and parallels from the New Testament text. For St. Basil, the place and role of the *Epistle to the Colossians* in his treatise *On the Holy Spirit* proves that the argument of demonstration is a deep reflection of New Testament theology.

Keywords: God, Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, *Colossians*, St. Paul, *On the Holy Spirit*, St. Basil, New Testament Theology.

To my teacher and spiritual father, Stelian Tofană, without whom I would not be here today in the service of students.

¹ This study was prepared under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Stelian Tofană, my doctoral supervisor. The decision to undertake a more detailed examination of the Epistle to the Colossians over the past 18 years can also be attributed to Fr. Stelian Tofană. In consideration of the aforementioned factors, it seems appropriate to restrict the scope of this study to Colossians as a gesture of gratitude. The Treatise on the Holy Spirit of St. Basil the Great was the subject of my dissertation, entitled “A Study on the Isagogical Framework of the Treatise on the Holy Spirit of St. Basil the Great.” This research was conducted under the guidance of professors Paul Negruț and Marius Cruceru from the Emanuel Theological Institute of Oradea, which was affiliated with the University of Bucharest at the time. A first version of this article, „«Epistola către Coloseni» a Sf. Apostol Pavel în tratatul «Despre Sfântul Duh al Sfântului Vasile cel Mare». O reflecție a teologiei biblice noutestamentare”, appeared in the volume *Revelații ale unității la Sfinții Părinți Capadocieni*, [Revelations of unity in the Cappadocian Fathers], Ioan Vasile LEB, Gabriel-Viorel GÂRDAN, Dacian BUT-CĂPUȘAN (coord.), Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2013, pp. 87-111.