

Summary of PhD Dissertation: *Persuasion strategies in the Letters of Theodoret of Cyrrhus*

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The aim of the dissertation is to investigate persuasive strategies employed in the extant letters of Theodoret, bishop of Cyrrhus (393-460?) with a particular focus on his communication with pagans. Author of the dissertation tries to investigate pattern of communication and modes of persuasion present in this subsection of Theodoret's letters. The main hypothesis states that the bishop, instead of intellectual appeal, tried to present Christianity as a source of new social affiliation, lost after prohibition of pagan cult. The hypothesis is advanced in four stages split into four chapters. The first chapter provides general information about Theodoret, his letters and his correspondents. The second chapter undertakes of prosopographical survey of fourteen correspondents to establish their religious affiliation. The third chapter summarizes patterns of communications in the letters to pagans and connects these patterns to the main hypothesis. The fourth chapter aims to validate this connection by presenting allusions to baptism (which stands as rite de passage required to gain Christian affiliation) present in Theodoret's letters to pagans.