Editorial

Hermeneutics has undeniably played a central role in human intellectual reflection throughout history. For example, the Genesis story (chapters 1–2) about the creation of human beings and their relationship with God in the Garden of Eden illustrates that, even in this early context, humans engage with God and nature through their interpretive frameworks. They make decisions about following God's commandments based on certain underlying assumptions. Thus, any approach or interaction with the surrounding reality—whether involving other human beings, society, culture, non-human creation, or the divine—constitutes a hermeneutical endeavor, whether consciously or unconsciously.

At the same time, humans seek to interpret aspects of reality that extend beyond what can be empirically verified, particularly through the strict sciences. This reflects a natural yearning for transcendent truth and a desire to grapple with the unknown.

If hermeneutics is about understanding the meaning and truth of history and existence, then theology—specifically, the theological interpretation of history and existence—occupies a special place within this multi-layered perspective. As has been pointed out, "theology is the origin of hermeneutics," indicating that any hermeneutical approach remains connected to its theological roots. Therefore, the discussion about the role of hermeneutics in contemporary theology, particularly in Orthodox theology, is of critical relevance.

Historically, Orthodox theology has been hesitant to adopt the various hermeneutical tools available, primarily due to its adherence to a narrow understanding of the patristic tradition that

sometimes acted as a barrier to serious theological inquiry. However, in recent decades, important conferences (such as those at Volos, Greece, and Fordham University, New York, in 2010) and various publications have highlighted that hermeneutics is a path Orthodox theology must explore to address the challenges posed by the modern world, which is vastly different from the medieval context.

In personal conversations with the late Metropolitan of Pergamon, John D. Zizioulas, he acknowledged the profound relevance of hermeneutics for the success of theology in our time. Consequently, Orthodox theology must define its own hermeneutical criteria to be used not only in reading its own sources and tradition but also in engaging in dialogue with the surrounding reality.

The second issue of the journal aims to explore aspects of the theological hermeneutics of Metropolitan John D. Zizioulas, critically addressing contemporary issues and challenges. It also includes unpublished material relevant to Zizioulas' understanding of the topic.

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