

## Issues in New Testament Studies Part II

We are pleased to offer the second and final part in our series on issues in the New Testament. Part I can be viewed and downloaded at [www.aps.edu/ajps](http://www.aps.edu/ajps). All authors here are students in our Master of Theology Program. At APTS, we are intentional about cultivating a culture of writing for publication, both by those with proven published credentials and those aspiring to gain them. Another advantage to publishing the work of our own students is the opportunity to look at issues through new and younger eyes while, at the same time, benefiting from the work of older scholars as we did in Part I of this series. For more information on our PhD, DMin and MTh programs, please visit [www.aps.edu](http://www.aps.edu) or email me at the address below.

Lora Embudo leads off this edition with a two part article on a Lukan paradigm of witness. In the first part, she reviews relevant literature, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of those in this field. While the subject itself is not new, Embudo, seeing this through the eyes of her own Filipino culture, points out that 1<sup>st</sup> century Greek culture was sociologically group oriented, meaning that any individual witness must be seen in conjunction with that of the ecclesial community. In the second article, she contends that Luke intended to pair the “breaking of bread” and prayer, both of which were communal activities. She goes on to say, however, that the depth of the *koinonia* experienced would be unlike anything the world has to offer—which serves to authenticate the witness of the ecclesial community.

Yuri Phanon’s two part article is a classic piece of Pentecostal writing. She explores the Pentecostal philosophy that the power of the Holy Spirit allows one to participate in the mission of God. Here she looks at the birth, baptism and wilderness narratives of Christ. She holds that the conception and birth of Christ was a new genesis, a new beginning for the world. Namely, that through the child conceived by Mary through the power of the Spirit, the world might be saved through the ministry of Jesus’ Spirit empowered followers. In the baptism

narrative, Phanon sees the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove as an empowerment for service that Jesus would later pass on to his followers.

In the second part of her article, Phanon goes into the wilderness with Jesus, exploring the narratives of Matthew, Mark and Luke. She contends that, for Mark, the main emphasis of the story is not that Jesus was tempted by the devil, but by the fact that that he was not alone (Mark 1:13). Matthew's perspective, on the other hand, was that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and that the Devil's temptations were, in fact, Spirit initiated. Luke's intent, according to Phanon, was to demonstrate that Jesus was filled with the Spirit before he even went into the wilderness

Finally, in another two-part article, Hirokatsu Yoshihara leads us into the world of linguistics in both the New Testament and classical Greek. He makes the statement that this subject should be taken seriously as understanding the Greek NT is part of the hermeneutical foundation for any serious student of Scripture. Here, he writes in defense of linguist Carl Conrad. For Yoshihara, Conrad speaks of a fundamental paradigm shift in the way that scholars would understand the voice system in the linguistical analysis of classic Greek. For Yoshihara, we are only at the beginning of this paradigm shift and the implications may be felt for a long time to come.

We hope you enjoy this edition. As always, feel free to direct any questions or comments to me at [dave.johnson@agmd.org](mailto:dave.johnson@agmd.org).

Warmly yours,

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Managing Editor