

PREFACE

The core of the Arian controversy, “Who is Jesus Christ?” is a perennially important question. The reader of this book is not provided with a balanced answer to this question, but with an analysis of the answer one of the combatants in this controversy, Hilary of Poitiers, the ‘Athanasius of the West’, gives to it. The author believes Hilary’s views to be theologically superior to those of his opponents, – but we are not so well informed about the Arian doctrine as we are about the orthodox one. It is fair to refer the reader to the splendid study by R. C. Gregg and D. E. Groh (which came out shortly before the present book went to the printers and could therefore hardly be taken into account), *Early Arianism. A View of Salvation*, Philadelphia 1981, in which the traditional evaluation of Arianism is challenged and in which it is stressed that the Arian theology centered around salvation, – just like orthodox theology.

I want to thank E. J. Brill’s for editing the book and the *Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of pure Research (Z.W.O.)* for providing a subsidy.

I want to express my gratitude to Mrs T. C. C. M. Heesterman-Visser, Oegstgeest, for typewriting the manuscript, and Mrs S. Peletier-Bridgwater, Voorschoten, and my nephew Mr F. N. Marshall, London, for correcting my English.

I am most grateful to my colleague and friend J. C. M. van Winden for his very thorough correction of my original manuscript, especially of the translation. I had corrected Watson’s translation, then Van Winden twice corrected mine, if the present translation proves to be sound it is primarily due to Van Winden, – but also the commentary owes much to his admirable scholarship.

The book has been dedicated to my highly venerated teacher Professor dr J. H. Waszink. More than twenty years ago he (and Professor Bakhuizen van den Brink) encouraged me to go into Patristics, and I have received stimulating help and advice from him ever since.

June 1981

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