

Abstract

The work deals with the epistles of Paul the Apostle. Using Greek concordance, it searches for verses containing the words hope and to hope, analyzes them, and examines the context where Paul writes about hope. The analysis is then used to create generalizing characteristics: who or what, according to Paul, is a source of hope, what is its object or goal, what are its effects, how to distinguish beneficial hope from ineffective and harmful hope, what is the connection and order of virtues in the Faith – Love – Hope triad. The work also takes into account some parts expressing hope without explicitly mentioning the term, in addition to the expressed use of the word hope. It evaluates the obtained proper findings and compares them with published conclusions of other authors in professional biblical literature from the end of the 20th century to the present and with the opinion of two modern important ecclesiastical documents dealing with hope. The conclusions of the work show Paul as a biblical author who uses the concept of Christian hope extremely often in a wide range of contexts and whose epistles have a reference meaning for understanding this concept. Hope is significantly Christocentric in Paul's presentation with a very close relationship to faith and love. The work outlines general beneficial effect of hope and considers its possible current use as one of the means of pre-evangelization.