

The thesis deals with “The Christian Origins Project” proposed by Burton L. Mack in 1995 and supported by other scientists. The Project strongly criticises the traditional picture of Christian origins in the New Testament studies and calls upon rewriting Christian origins with the help of “a new hermeneutic”. At the same time it offers a fresh and authentic view on the social history of the early Christianity based on a detailed study of the early Christian documents including non-canonical writings and brings an alternative picture of Christian origins that includes the Cynic hypothesis and also analysis of the Christian myth. The Project integrates the perspectives of religious studies and sociology and formulates a social theory of religion and myth. The thesis which incorporates a critique of the project and points to its context aims to answer the question whether the Christian Origins Project provides a space for a dialogue with the New Testament studies. It also wants to consider the relationship between religious studies and theology.