

## **Summary**

The present thesis maps the development of the semantic field of the Greek term “ἅγιος”. It is a lexical-theological analysis, which starts linguistically from single lexemes and, in search of the meanings, pays attention also to their contexts resulting in the theological summaries. The starting point is the Old Testament concept of holiness, summarized in Leviticus 10,10, which also delineates the semantic field. In the ten chapters of this thesis, ten of the most representative authors of the New Testament and Apostolic Fathers are explored as to their use of the holiness word-group. This thesis starts with the single occurrences of the terms in their original context and from here, the theology of holiness is drawn, reflected by the use of the words in every single of the authors. Every chapter is divided into two parts, the first describing holiness and the second one dealing with purity. The main questions asked to the text are: First, is the holiness understood as the transcendent quality of God, which, by being near to him, changes believers, or whether, on the other hand, it is a description of holy, i.e. ascetic life. Second, what is the relation of holiness and purity? Is purity presupposition for meeting with the Holy? Third, is there a visible shift in understanding of holiness compared with the Old Testament? How does the author reflect the abandonment of the ritual laws by the Church. Answers to all these questions are drawn from close inspection of development of meaning of the specific terms in their nearest context.

## **Keywords**

Holy, pure, impure, ritual purity.