

**Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, *Orthodox Theology in the Twenty-first Century*, WCC Publications, Geneva, 2012, 52 p.**

In this small volume, published by World Council of Churches Publications, the well-known metropolitan and Orthodox theologian Kallistos Ware inaugurates the *Doxa&Praxis* series, which has its main goal to publish and to make known the theological research and insights of Orthodox Christian authors. As we notice from the foreword (pp. 7-11), by the director of Volos Academy of Theological Studies, Pantelis Kalaitzidis, this first volume of the series contains the text of a public lecture with the same title, presented at Volos in 2004, within the framework of the program on Orthodoxy and Multiculturalism. Also from the foreword, the reader can see the dominant theological issues that form the main core of the distinguished metropolitan's lecture. According to his opinion, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the primary theological insights addressed the issue of ecclesiological identity and nature of the Church, but in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the "quintessential problem" of the Orthodox theology will be anthropological.

The volume is divided into five chapters. The first chapter, "Looking to the past: our chief task in the twentieth century", is a retrospective analysis on the Orthodox theological reflection of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its main accent was posed on the ecclesiological issues, starting from two major historical events, which have had a major impact on the Orthodoxy of the last century: the 1917 Russian revolution, followed by the collapse of the Russian Empire and the emigration of Orthodox Christians to the West seen as a direct result of the revolution. Both historical realities changed the way of perceiving the nature of the Church, but also of what represents the Orthodox Church in comparison with other Churches that are active in the West, with an emphasis on the "Eucharistic" and "universal" ecclesiology. Although the common view is that there is a sharp contrast between "Eucharistic" and "universal" understandings of ecclesiology, the Metropolitan calls out for a balanced ecclesiology, in which the two understandings are not opposite alternatives but complementary. (p. 21).

The second chapter deals with the challenges of the new millennium in which we live. Without claiming that it could be a prophecy, the author thinks that the theological leitmotif of the twenty-first century will be anthropological, even if ecclesiology will continue to play a significant role in Orthodox theological reflection for a long time to come. The question will be not only "What is the Church?" but also and more importantly, "What is the human person?" as "person-in-relation" according to the image of God within ourselves, for only in the Church the human persons "become authentically themselves" (p. 25).