The Holy Canons Given at the First Ecumenical Council. New Translation by Critical Editions of the Greek

Lecturer PhD ION MARIAN CROITORU, University of Târgoviște, ioncroitoru@vahoo.fr

Abstract

In the specialized literature, it is unanimously admitted that 20 holy canons have been given during the First Ecumenical Council. The problematics of these holy canons show the efforts of the Church, faced, on the one hand, with the phenomenon of different schisms and heresies, which were tearing apart the unity of the Church of those times, and, on the other hand, with the deviations from the authentic living of the faith in Christ. The negative aspects of the life of the Church were fought with love for the Truth, namely for the world's Redeemer and Son of God, Jesus Christ, to make sure that the believers would be able to attain the goal of their earthly life, in other words to live the states of illumination and deification. For this reason, the holy canons show that the right faith $(\delta \rho \theta o \delta o \xi i \alpha)$ needs to be accompanied by the right actions (όρθοπραξία). This fact requires a good knowledge of the holy canons and of the circumstances in which they were promulgated, but also of the comments made on them throughout the centuries. The translation into Romanian of the 20 holy canons of the First Ecumenical Council, proposed in the present study, has been made based on the Greek critical editions. The aim of this approach is closely connected to the highlighting of a double exhortation, namely the need to revise the old translations and the importance of a multiplication of the efforts of realizing critical editions in the Orthodox world.