

«A RELIGION BETWEEN TWO CULTURES».
Presentation of the SNTS
at the Universal Forum of the Cultures (8-4-04).

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From the 3rd through to the 6th August, 2004, the city of Barcelona celebrated the annual meeting of the «*Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*» (SNTS), an organization of researchers dedicated to the study of the New Testament. SNTS is made up of one thousand members and meets every year in a different city around the world. During the meeting on Wednesday, August 4th at 8:00 p.m., SNTS participated in the program entitled «141 questions», which took place at the Universal Forum of Cultures. SNTS also sponsored the «question» of the day. Among the audience, there were members of the SNTS, their hosts and friends, and the general public.

The question was «How does a religion appear and develop between two cultures? The case of Christianity». This particular question was posed in the following way: «The world religions have appeared in the mist of specific culture or cultures and have developed through particular historical, social, economical, geographical, and even religious conditions. Specifically, Christianity is a Mediterranean religion that is fed by two main cultural sources: the Jewish world and the Greco-Roman world. Citing the name of two representative cities, it has been stated that Christianity is the child of Jerusalem and Athens. It is, therefore, a religion with two souls.»

The speakers presented by SNTS to debate this question were Professor Wayne A. Meeks (Yale), President of «*Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*» (2004-2005), who introduced the subject. The next speaker was Professor Hans Josef Klauck (Chicago), former President of SNTS (2003-2004). The closing speaker was Professor Florentino García Martínez (Leuven), a specially invited guest.

There follows the text of these three speeches, in the order in which they were presented. We would like to thank Professor Judith Lieu (King's College London), editor of the publication «*New Testament Studies*», the scientific arm

of the SNTS, for kindly granting permission to the «Revista Catalana de Teologia» to publish the three inspiring speeches delivered that day.

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