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0521018919 - Endurance in Suffering: Hebrews 12:1-13 in its Rhetorical,
Religious, and Philosophical Context

N. Clayton Croy

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Hebrews 12.1–13 portrays the suffering of the community to which it is addressed by means of two images: an athletic contest, and God’s fatherly discipline. N. Clayton Croy provides a thorough exploration of the theme of suffering in the Jewish and Greco-Roman traditions, and surveys the different interpretations of this passage which have been offered by Christian writers over the centuries. He argues that the concept of “training” unites the passage, which presents Jesus as the supreme athlete, an agonistic exemplar for those running the race. This section of Hebrews also supports a non-punitive understanding of discipline, in which God’s children undergo a positive process of education. The educative notion of *paideia* combines with images of athletic training to establish a call to faithful endurance rather than repentance. This book concludes with several theological reflections on the relationship between sin, suffering, and eschatology. A wide-ranging bibliography allows the interested reader to pursue questions further.

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N. CLAYTON CROY

Columbia Theological Seminary



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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>ABD</i> | <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> |
| <i>ANRW</i> | <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> |
| <i>BAGD</i> | Bauer, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , ed. Arndt, Gingrich, and Danker |
| <i>BDF</i> | Blass and Debrunner, <i>Greek Grammar of the New Testament</i> , trans. and ed. Funk |
| <i>CBQ</i> | <i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i> |
| <i>CBQMS</i> | <i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series</i> |
| <i>EJMI</i> | Kraft and Nickelsburg, eds., <i>Early Judaism and its Modern Interpreters</i> |
| <i>ET</i> | English Translation |
| <i>JBL</i> | <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> |
| <i>JSNT</i> | <i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i> |
| <i>JSOT</i> | <i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i> |
| <i>JTS</i> | <i>Journal of Theological Studies</i> |
| <i>KJV</i> | King James Version |
| <i>LCL</i> | Loeb Classical Library |
| <i>LSJ</i> | Liddell and Scott, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , ed. Jones and McKenzie |
| <i>NEB</i> | New English Version |
| <i>Nestle</i> ²⁶ | <i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> , 26th edn. |
| <i>NIV</i> | New International Version |
| <i>NRSV</i> | New Revised Standard Version |
| <i>OCD</i> | <i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> |
| <i>OTP</i> | <i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> , ed. Charlesworth |
| <i>PG</i> | <i>Patrologia Graeca</i> |
| <i>PL</i> | <i>Patrologia Latina</i> |
| <i>RAH</i> | <i>Rhetorica ad Herennium</i> |
| <i>RSV</i> | Revised Standard Version |
| <i>TDNT</i> | <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> |

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x *Abbreviations*

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TEV | Today's English Version |
| UBS | United Bible Societies |
| UBS ³ | <i>Greek New Testament</i> , 3rd edn. |
| UBS ⁴ | <i>Greek New Testament</i> , 4th edn. |