

# *Christian presence in the inscriptions of Thessaloniki and Beroea in Late Antiquity*

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The present paper will focus on the epigraphic evidence of Christian presence from the cities of Thessaloniki and Beroea. Although the existence of Christian congregations in both cities is attested by early Christian sources (the New Testament) the first epigraphic evidence comes from the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd c. The first part of the paper will focus on the methodological criteria that should be applied in order to determine the Christian character of such epigraphic monuments. In the second part some interesting epigraphic data from both Macedonian cities will be presented. It will be claimed that despite their fragmentary character they provide interesting information about the life and the symbolic world of ancient Christians. Moreover, they reflect the interaction of these early Christians with their pagan environment and an interesting dynamic of resistance to and appropriation of it.