

Introduction

Theology has always been a linguistic endeavor. It has taken into account its linguistic roots from the very beginning. Such considering of its own linguistic nature belongs to the main tasks of theology. One of the main issues in theology is to rethink its essential connection with linguistic character of human being-in-the-world. Although linguistic meta-reflection in theology today do not spring from context only, it is however also motivated in a very special way by the philosophical and scientific context of theology. Our present philosophical milieu is characterized by linguistic turn which has had an obvious impact on theology as well.

One must, today, become very aware of the fact that important factors in the epochal crisis of metaphysics and theology are influenced in a current, modern understanding of language. To some extent the real problem behind the multiplicity of philosophical and theological issues is a radical reduction of the question of truth to mere linguistic structures. When the notion of truth is reduced to mere linguistic concepts, when truth itself becomes one of the puzzles and mere fragments of a linguistic game, then philosophy and theology are tempted to redefine their aims and already established scopes. Such situations present both a real threat and an immediate challenge to theology and its nature as it has been historically conceived in the past.

In the present issue of *Theological Research* we propose to rethink the current permissible state of present discussions about the relation of theology and language from various angles. The indubitable fact of the linguistic limitations of every part of human knowledge, including theology, and the linguistic nature of the very issue of truth invite us to address this issue not only from historical and systematic perspectives but also from pastoral as well. What kind of language should be implied in systematic theology? What language is to be used in a pastoral transmission of theological truths? Finally, what is language from a theological perspective? These are the several main questions which stand behind differentiated insights of our authors.

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