

THEOLOGY:.....Willis E. Elliott

Is This Course Necessary?

Is theology necessary? Theologians think so! How about you? Write one legitimate sentence, any length, as your response to each of the following theses of Gerhard Ebeling [425f, WORD AND FAITH, Fortress '63] On 8 1/2 x 11 paper, number your sentences according to the theses, but do not repeat the theses.

THEOLOGY IS NECESSARY

1. for the observance of what is necessary for salvation, and is to that extent itself necessary for salvation.
2. because what is necessary for salvation is a word-event.
3. in order to answer for the self-evidence of the Word of God.
4. as the hermeneutics (i.e. theory of understanding or theory of language) of faith.
5. for the sake of the intellectual honesty of faith, i.e. in order that faith should be real faith.
6. in order to call Christianity in question.
7. in order to make preaching as hard for the preacher as it has to be.
8. for the sake of the general intelligibility of our proclamation.
9. in order that faith should not be spoken of abstractly.
10. in order to hold our proclamation to the task of at once both agreeing and disagreeing with what has been handed down (ueberliefert) to us, and, coinciding with that, to agree or disagree with what we are exposed to (ausgeliefert).
11. because man is by nature a fanatic.
12. in order to protect the conscience from religious violation.
13. for the defence of reason against unreasonableness.
14. for the exercise of the distinction between faith and reason, faith and morality, faith and religion.
15. in order to preserve the freedom which is essential to faith and identical with it.
16. only to the extent that it makes itself superfluous and makes proclamation necessary.