

Eschewing Obsessions with Methodology in Theology: A Vision from Postmodern Theology

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Abstract - Along with other disciplines Theology too was obsessed with methodological concerns and during the by gone century we have witnessed desperate attempts made by theologians to work out an epistemology acceptable to the mainstream philosophers. Foundationalism was largely resorted to, and many have argued that religious propositions were as foundational as intuitive perceptual experiences, and hence should be accepted as basic propositions, propositions that need no further justifications to get them established. Many came up with criticisms to such approaches that in a way surrender the very discipline to the methodological mastery. Postmodernism however, gave a new impetus to fight against this methodological obsession which seems to be an aftermath of modernity. The paper argues that along with postmodernism Theology could eschew the mastery of epistemology and claim freedom and authenticity of individual religious experiences.

Keywords - Prolegomena, epistemology, postmodernism, foundationalism, theology, objectivity.

INTRODUCTION

A theology gets titled *modern* if we can situate it in a familiar narrative about the enlightenment or to point out certain family resemblances like critical, scientific etc. between the theologians and their secular counterparts. However, no such consensus can be sited when we come to the post modern era, yet at least for past three decades almost all theories or concepts, be it on language studies or on social sciences, are presented in the wider spectrum of post modernity, effecting that it's reference is indispensable for understanding contemporary

thought, just as modernity has been for past hundred years. Hence presumably religious contemporary studies in theology also should be made against this spectrum of Postmodernism. During the hey days of modernity, the secularism has kept religion out of the public domain. The so called fact - value distinction related matters to the margins of religious expressions, depriving them the possibility of any truth value accreditation. Also, neither tradition nor community was a primary Tracy states that modern theology is principally determined not by the reality of God by the *logos* of modernity¹. Human reason over reason, the characteristic mark of modernity seem to render preference for the creator-revelation, human creativity can demand a command. A transition from modernity to post modernity is characterized not by total submission, *I submit my submission*. Postmodern aim to situate reason, reminding modern man to a God's eye point of view that the world is historically situated, culturally contextually sexually gendered beings. To borrow from Kevin J. Vanhoose, postmoderns are not modern counterparts with their own epistemological bricks out of universal proposition and word of universal base

¹ David Tracy, *On Naming the Subject*

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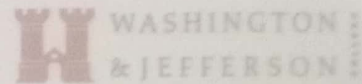
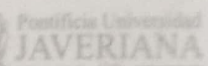
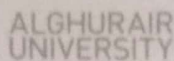
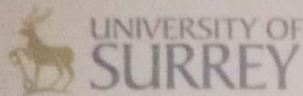
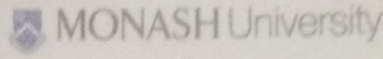
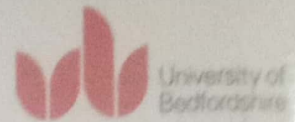
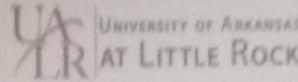
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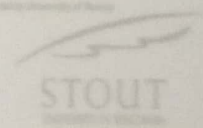
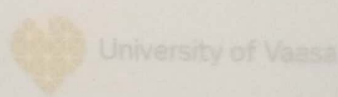
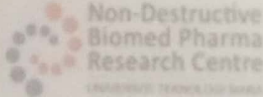
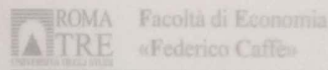
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