



SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Theology Part Two: Modern Theology
Spring 2019
Mark Hargreaves

Session 1 Introducing Modern Theology

Reading: Modern Theology: A critical introduction Ch. 1, 2 and 4 (We will look at the Schleiermacher text, and its interpretation on p. 73)

- What are the main characteristics of modernity?
- What aspects of modernity have had the greatest influence in shaping modern theology?
- What is the difference between “natural” and “revealed” theology?

Essay: How does Schleiermacher’s thought reflect the main concerns of modern theology?

Session 2 Charles Hodge and Horace Bushnell

Reading: Modern Theology: A Critical introduction Ch. 8

Plus pdfs of Bushnell’s “Vicarious Sacrifice” and Hodge’s extract from his Commentary on Romans

- What is the nature of truth and how can we speak of that truth?
- How does Schleiermacher influence Bushnell?
- What are the “modern” characteristics of Hodge and Bushnell’s theology?

Essay: Compare and contrast the approach to the Cross presented by Hodge and Bushnell

Session 3 Karl Barth and Rudolf Bultmann

Reading: Modern Theology: A Critical introduction Ch. 10

Plus pdfs of Barth’s on Revelation as God’s Self-Disclosure and Bultmann on Demythologization

- What is “historical criticism?”
- What is revelation?

- What are the various ways in which the Bible can be read?

Essay: What the main differences in the thinking of Barth and Bultmann and what have they got in common?

Session 4 *Hermeneutics* and Feminist Theology

Reading: Modern Theology: A Critical Introduction Ch. 14

Plus pdfs of Phyllis Trible on Feminist Biblical Interpretation and Janet Soskice on the Kindness of God

- What is “hermeneutics?”
- What issues in the interpretation of the Bible are raised by feminist readings of Scripture?
- What is “feminist theology?”

Essay: Is it appropriate to call God “Father”?