

## Jens Schröter (Hrsg.)

Die Rolle der Theologie in Universität, Gesellschaft und Kirche. (*The Role of Theology in University, Society and Church.*) Veröffentlichungen der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Theologie 36. Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, Leipzig 2012, 162 pp.

This volume presents the contributions to a symposium of the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie held in Prague 2010 and deals with the role of theology in university, society and Church regarding the changing societal conditions for religion and theology in the last decades, thus expressing its concern with the conditions for theology in Western and Eastern Europe and different historical and cultural traditions and political constellations. According to the three reference fields, the present volume is divided into three parts and is complemented by an introduction and an article by Martin Prudký on theology at Prague university and in Bohemia's society and Church. In the first part, Michael Beintker asks for theology's contribution to today's university and pleads inter alia for decidedly advocating the academic freedom of the university, for a scholarly sound reflection of Christian faith and for keeping open the questions of transcendence, sense and the ultimate preconditions of the sciences. Christian Grethlein compares Melanchthon's position on truth and justice as centre of the university with the importance of knowledge and competition for university in the Bologna-declaration and sees an important service of theology in stressing the dimensions of truth and justice. Finally, Petr Gallus deals with theology as science of faith, differentiates between ecclesial and academic theology and argues for the possibility of non-believers to do academic theology.

The second part begins with an article by Friederike Nüssel on Protestant theology in public discourses in which she mainly discusses a contribution published by the EKD in 2009 on the importance of academic theology in science, university and church. Lubomír Batka deals with the relationship of theology and science, arguing for Man as the point of concord between both, while Peter Morée presents Josef L. Hromádka's struggle for a cooperation between Christian church and communist regime.

The third part deals with the relationship of theology and church and contains an article by Christian Albrecht on Schleiermacher's understanding of theology with its ideal of balancing the religious interest and the scientific mind, an article by Jan Štefan on the importance of theology for the church and of the church for theology and one by Petr Macek on the relationship between theology and the Church's nature and commission out of the perspective of "Radical Reformation".

By combining German and Czech perspectives and experiences, this recommendable volume offers an interesting spectre of historical and systematic viewpoints on the significance of theology for university, society and Church and vice versa.

(Thomas Fornet-Ponse)