

后现代社会与基督教福音^①

The Postmodern Condition and the Enduring
Good News of the Gospel

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[英文提要]

In the first part of this paper, the author points to some major elements in art, science, culture, philosophy and history of such a complex and variegated phenomenon as postmodernism. In the second part, he tries to exemplify conflicts between Catholicism and Modernism, conflicts that are relevant to the postmodern debate. Then follows an ample presentation of different theological approaches, which range from enthusiastic acceptance of postmodern tenets to a severe criticism of them.

The author summarizes his thought in two points:

1. Postmodernism is an ambivalent phenomenon, presenting positive and negative aspects. The positive aspect is the overcoming of the arrogant pretensions of modern reason, science and ideology. The negative aspect is its resemblance to the late-modern phenomenon, which is noticeable especially in the inclination toward

^① 本文系根据作者在中国人民大学中文系和中国人民大学基督教文化研究所的两次演讲翻译整理而成,其中第二部分略有删节。——译者注。

the decadence, nihilism and death of the late/post-modern generation.

2. Postmodernism both challenges and is challenged by Christianity. Postmodernism challenges Christianity with its pluralism and relativism, which are not only of fact, but also of right, before the state, culture and society. In the pluralistic and relativistic post-modern context, rational discourse about the existence of God does not appeal to the public, and Christianity is challenged to rediscover the weakness of its faith from the Cross, its defenseless proclamation of the paradoxical gospel of liberation, and to contemplate God who gratuitously comes to us as mystery. At the same time, Christianity challenges dark postmodern pessimism with the joy of its enduring good news. Christian theology is called to renovate its apologetic mission to announce a refreshing and joyful message which is rational but not only rational, which is spiritual but also historical and concrete, which meets the deep aspirations of the human heart, but also provokes, subverts and challenges them.

一 后现代社会

1、何谓后现代主义

对于不同的人,“后现代”的涵义也是不同的^①,因而很难予以界定。后现代并非一种界限清晰的运动,而是一种混杂着不同策略

^① Z. Bauman: "Intimation of Postmodernity", London: Routledge, 1992, 第7页。