

# The Emperor's New Clothes: Has Postmodernism Rejected Truth?

(An abstract)

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Many evangelical theologians have accused postmodernism for rejecting the validity of truth claims. Here in this paper we examine the argument of one prominent evangelical theologian – D. A. Carson. According to Carson, the argument of postmodernism that propositions do not have any stable meaning is a self-defeating claim, because, if the claim is true the argument itself would have no meaning either. Then we look at how Schleiermacher and Heidegger develop their understanding of truth. Both of them do not reject truth. Schleiermacher argues that our comprehension of truth is inextricably tied to language. We can never arrive at the naked truth, but always truth dressed in a particular language formulation. There is no particular type of language that can uniquely express truth as if not mediated. Heidegger argues that the essence of truth is the disclosure of Being, which cannot be captured as objects in our propositions. Schleiermacher and Heidegger have raised important questions about the nature of truth that Carson has failed to address. The ideal of grasping truth asymptotically toward increasing precision in our propositions may just be an illusive dream. This implies that

evangelical theologians need to re-examine how the Bible proclaims truth and how we should formulate biblical truth with our theological language.