

# Rethinking of the Theological Hermeneutics of Karl Barth and Rudolf Bultmann: From the Perspective of the Later Heidegger

(An abstract)

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In this paper we seek to understand the difference between and relationship of Karl Barth's and Rudolf Bultmann's theological hermeneutics through the perspective of the later Heidegger. Basically, their viewpoints mutually presuppose one another, just like the relationship between the early and later Heidegger. This relationship can be understood in terms of distinction yet non-separation of *Dasein* and Being/*Ereignis* within the philosophy of Heidegger. For Barth, a proper way of human interpretation of the Bible is only possible when God transforms the interpreter first. However, for Bultmann, if one is not involved in the interpretation of the Bible, then how can one be transformed by God himself? Therefore, on the one hand, we advocate that Barth must presuppose Bultmann's viewpoint of the relationship between the fallen human being and God, though acknowledging that the relationship is broken. Otherwise all kinds of divine act of transforming the fallen human being are impossible. This follows from the fact that all kinds of human knowledge of

God are also impossible. On the other hand, Bultmann also needs to presuppose the position of Barth that the ontological distinction between God and human being is a necessary condition for limiting the human effort of knowing God. The knowledge of God does not depend on the fallen human being alone, but God must first initiate the human being into faith in God during one's reading of the Bible.