

*Abstract*

'Church Dogmatics' in Karl Barth's sense is both a critical and a positive exercise. It consists in critical reflection upon the proclamation of the Church, i.e. the attempt to test its adequacy in the light of a fresh hearing of the Word of God as attested in Holy Scripture, in order then to reconstruct Christian doctrinal affirmation in ways more responsible to God's Self-revelation and more immediately relevant to the situation of the Church in the present. This essay analyzes the task of theology so defined in three steps: 1) the 'object' of theology, 2) the source and norm of theology, and 3) the reflection itself. It concludes with an expression of hope that theology in our day will continue to serve the needs of the churches and not of the academy alone.