

Preface

The present study is an expanded version of my dissertation. The oral defense occurred in January 2014 at Princeton Theological Seminary. I must begin by acknowledging my gratitude to my advisor, Bruce L. McCormack, who, over lunch in April 2008, proposed that I write on Rudolf Bultmann. I could not have asked for a more supportive *Doktorvater*. I also wish to thank the other two members of my dissertation committee, James F. Kay and Darrell L. Guder, for their guidance during my research and their assistance in the revision of the manuscript.

I am indebted to Kate Skrebutenas, the reference librarian at Princeton Seminary, for assisting me in my research. I am additionally appreciative of the Special Collections staff at the Princeton Seminary library, especially those who oversee the Center for Barth Studies, superbly curated at the time I was in Princeton by Clifford Anderson.

In the summer of 2012 I left Princeton for another community in Downers Grove, Illinois, where I joined the editorial team at InterVarsity Press. The bulk of this dissertation was written after I joined IVP, and that is a credit to the support I have received from my coworkers.

I am grateful to the Bultmann heirs for permission to publish an English translation of “Der christliche Sinn von Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung: Skizze des am 11. Juni 1925 vor der 50. Versammlung evangelischer Religionslehrer an den höheren Lehranstalten der Rheinprovinz gehaltenen Vortrages.”¹ I am also grateful to Mohr Siebeck for permission to publish English translations of two essays by Bultmann: “Leitsätze von Univ.-Prof. D. Bultmann (Marburg)”² and “Über den Begriff ‘Mythos.’”³ The latter essay long remained unpublished as part of the Bultmann *Nachlass*; it deserves a wide audience, and I am glad it now has the chance to be read by many more people. Additionally, my thanks to the *Journal of Theological Interpretation*—in particular to its publisher, Jim Eisenbraun, and its editor, Joel Green—for permission to use material previously published in an article with that journal.⁴

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1. Rudolf Bultmann, “Der christliche Sinn von Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung: Skizze des am 11. Juni 1925 vor der 50. Versammlung evangelischer Religionslehrer an den höheren Lehranstalten der Rheinprovinz gehaltenen Vortrages,” *Zeitschrift für den evangelischen Religionsunterricht an höheren Lehranstalten* 36 (1925): 170–72.
2. Published originally in Rudolf Bultmann and Friedrich Feigel, “Die neueste Wendung der evang. Theologie (K. Barth, Gogarten usw.) und der evang. Religionsunterricht an höheren Schulen,” *Monatsblätter für den Evangelischen Religionsunterricht* 18 (1925): 180–82. Reprinted in Rudolf Bultmann, “Leitsätze R. Bultmanns,” in Rudolf Bultmann and Friedrich Gogarten, *Briefwechsel 1921–1967*, ed. Hermann Götz Göckeritz (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2002), 279–80.
3. Rudolf Bultmann, “Über den Begriff ‘Mythos’ [ca. 1942–1952],” in *Bultmann–Althaus Briefwechsel 1929–1966*, ed. Matthias Dreher and Gotthard Jasper (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012), 89–96.
4. David W. Congdon, “Kerygma and Community: A Response to R. W. L. Moberly’s Revisiting of Bultmann,” *Journal of Theological Interpretation* 8 (2014): 1–21.

me in translating several German passages. James Gordon generously allowed me to use his carrel at Wheaton College and requested many books that were essential to my research. Oliver Crisp kindly agreed to paint a portrait of Bultmann for the cover, for which I am most obliged; it is a striking image. My editor at Fortress Press, Michael Gibson, showed keen interest in this project from the start, and I am thankful to him and the whole Fortress team for their help in bringing the work to publication.

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This book is dedicated to my parents, Jon and Harriet Congdon, and especially to my wife, Amy, whose forbearance, generosity, and succor have been the buttress of my life and work.