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# Review Of "Hermeneutics And The Disclosure Of Truth: A Study In The Work Of Heidegger, Gadamer, And Ricoeur" By J. I. DiCenso

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Review

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DiCENSO, JAMES J. *Hermeneutics and the Disclosure of Truth: A Study in the Work of Heidegger, Gadamer, and Ricoeur*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1990. 308 pp. \$32.50 (cloth).

This book examines the “disclosure theory of truth” in hermeneutical philosophy and theology.

Correspondence theorists (e.g., Plato) maintain that truth consists in the agreement between mind and reality. But this model suffers from its inability to account for the perspectival nature of knowledge. Coherence theorists (e.g., G. W. F. Hegel) are better at specifying the conceptual frameworks within which knowledge occurs, but they are eventually undermined by looking to a total system that conditions all experience. Disclosure thinkers (e.g., Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, and especially Paul Ricoeur) supersede both options by isolating the problem of literary interpretation as paradigmatic of the quest for truth. Truth is coterminous with what happens in the encounter between readers and texts: the disclosure of worlds or interpretive paradigms that project new perspectives on reality.

Pragmatists and evidentialists might want a more sustained examination of their models in a book about contemporary theories of truth. But within its hermeneutical compass, James DiCenso’s project is a satisfying exploration of the relevant issues.

MARK I. WALLACE, *Swarthmore College*.

GILL, JERRY H. *Mediated Transcendence: A Postmodern Reflection*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1989. 155 pp. \$26.50 (cloth); \$17.50 (paper).

Jerry Gill contends that modern, dualistic paradigms of “Being,” “Knowing,” “Doing,” and “Saying” force us to conceptualize transcendence in such a manner that divine activity ceases to bear meaningfully upon human activity. For example, these paradigms cannot provide conceptual vehicles capable of expressing the interpenetration of the “realms” of fact and value in our activity. Gill explores our embodied, social, and linguistic experience for “a truly incarnational model” of our experience of divine activity (p. 36) that conceives transcendence “in immanent terms” (p. 44). Creatively integrating insights of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Michael Polanyi, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and American pragmatism, he invites us to recognize how transcendence presents itself in and through a dimension of our experience that depends on others, like embodiment and sociality, while being both richer and more comprehensive than they are. Gill offers throughout this refreshingly readable work both a provocative analysis of current problems regarding discourse about transcendence and a stimulating proposal toward their resolution.

JANE E. JADLOS, *Pinehurst, North Carolina*.

CARR, ANNE, and SCHÜSSLER FIORENZA, ELIZABETH, eds. *Motherhood: Experience, Institution, and Theology*. Concillium 206. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1989. 154 pp. \$11.95 (paper).

In this series of essays the contributing authors describe the experience of mothering (being and having) and the institution of motherhood (in church and soci-