

# GOD IS DEAD MOVEMENT

## I. Men involved

172 - SPT Rubin

1. Gabriel Vahanian, Syracuse. 1961 The Death of God gave name to movmt. Less radical. Concnd with relatn bet literature and theol. By death means that God's reality has become culturally irrelevant. Reason: change from transcendence to immanence in man's ideas of God. Answer: wait for God to break in a la Bath. He is Calvinist and follower of Barth.
2. Harvey Cox. Baptist. Harvard Div. Secular City. Sociologist. Teanscendence comes thru secular like art, social change, teamwork relationship. Believes in God but need to quit using word until better word emerges.
3. Thomas J.J. Altizer, Episcopah, Emory, Gospel of Xn Atheism. Mystical, excessive generalization. Death of God real to this more radical thinker. Dialectical. Bible only contains provisional or temporary expressions of Wor
4. William Hamilton, Baptist, Colgate-Roch. New Essence of Xnty. God literally dead. Jesus hidden in neighbor, social movmt, etc. More of theologian
5. Paul van Buren, Episcopal, Temple, Secular Meaning of the Gospel. Philosopher. System (1) Assertions compatible with anytning and everything say nothing. (2) Value of God-language only if trashed into man-language. Embrace the secular world of which we are a part.

## II. Criticisms.

1. We say that God has appeared in history in JC and there is much empirical evidence concn Him. They answer that such evidence is only a discernment situation. All NT evidence only shows how powerful discernment was. Their inter is based solely on a humanistic bias.
2. Res of JC, e.g., is not compatible with anything and everything. Witnessed and certainty of faith consequent on a belief in it.

## III. Lessons.

1. God is not vague--Wholly other, Ground of Being, Dead. But God of living persons. Existence of God not nec to Barth's view of Bible or Tillich's.
2. Assertions about God in these men are compatible with everything, so meaningless.
3. Lose doct of rev and inerrant Script and don't need God Good quotes in Montgomery, p 26, 33, 34, 37, 52, 53-4.

*This can't be verified, so meaningless by our principles.*

# God IS Dead Theology

Titles - Theothanatology, Theothanasia (implying God was put to death)

- Men - Gabriel Vahanian - <sup>Calvinist</sup> - <sup>literature</sup> - The Death of God 1961
- Harry Cox - Baptist - Harvard Div. - <sup>overturning</sup> The Secular City 1965
- Thomas J.J. Altizer - Episcopalian <sup>layman</sup> - <sup>mystical</sup> Emory - The Gospel of X<sup>h</sup> Atheism
- Wm Hamilton - <sup>pastor</sup> - <sup>pastor</sup> - Colgate Rochester - The New Essence of X<sup>h</sup>ty
- Paul M. van Buren - Episcopalian priest - Temple U. - <sup>linguistic</sup> The Secular Meaning of the Gospel

Vahanian + Cox do not bel. God is literally dead - others do.  
 Altizer - Bel in Jesus but not Jesus of history.  
 Hamilton - God is indeed dead. Should follow Jesus who may be concealed in neighbor etc.

Van Buren - God-like statements are meaningless p32  
 Res<sup>ix</sup> was a "disincarnate situation" in which Jesus was seen in a new way.

Problem  
 For all God is replaced by man - literary, written, mystical, social & ethical.

## Answers

1. Liberal - Tillich - Reikman. God is Being itself who manifests self thru every particular being.
2. Neo-orthodox say that positive elements in NO affirm God living. But proof is impossible acc to NO
- Both 1+2 might be just words which are unanswerable.
3. Conser. Take that God-like statements meaningless unless verified. Existence of God not outside realm of empirical testability. God entered world in X. Miracles, Res. verifiable. If say NT. only appears to be evidence then such a statement not true bec. can't be verified