

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Schubert M. Ogden

Class of 1950

It is a privilege to honor Dr. Schubert Ogden, renowned as one of today's leading theologians not only in America, but in the world. Dr. Ogden is University Distinguished Professor of Theology and Director of the Graduate Program in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University. From 1969 to 1972 he had been University Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago. These positions alone are indication of his stature in academic and theological circles.

He holds degrees from Ohio Wesleyan, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago, and also studied at Philipps Universitaet in Marburg, Germany. Ohio Wesleyan and the University of Chicago have bestowed upon him honorary degrees. With his first book Christ without Myth, he established himself as a significant voice in the American theological scene. Numerous significant books, articles, and translations representing a consistent pattern of publication over many years have put him in the forefront as a proponent of 'process theology' which emphasizes that God is not a static being but is dynamic and constantly changing. He has been described as "explaining religion in terms acceptable to contemporary scientific and technical thought."

An ordained Methodist minister, he holds membership in many distinguished societies and organizations and has been a Merrick lecturer at Ohio Wesleyan, Fulbright Research Scholar, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Sarum lecturer at Oxford University and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute for the Advance Study of Religion at the University of Chicago, to name only a few of his appointments. Through teaching and writing, he has helped to shape the thinking, religious commitments and intellectual habits, as well as the scholarly discipline, of many students. This has extended to American theology and church life in general.

Dr. Ogden's colleagues in theological circles express their esteem for his accomplishments in varying words of praise:

(He strives to) "rid the Christian church of clichés".. He is a "devout churchman" with "high moral commitment," "social conscience," and "sterling intellectual integrity." And "...has had a major impact not only on Protestantism but also on Catholicism and Judaism."

Ohio Wesleyan is proud to recognize Dr. Ogden as an alumnus continuing in a tradition of offering significant service and insight to the life of the Christian church.

February 1, 1992

