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Summary of Doctoral Dissertation

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Title: *Existential Soteriology of Paul Tillich and Edward Schillebeeckx*

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The concept of salvation today is moving from the areas of religious thinking to other areas of intellectual activity (philosophy, political science, cultural studies, economics). Salvation is increasingly gaining the fundamental value of both a philosophical and an anthropological category, becoming the subject of interdisciplinary research. In this context, an important question arises: what is the meaning of the idea of salvation in contemporary culture marked by a deep conviction about the possibility of living without the hypothesis of God?

In the doctoral dissertation, the philosophical concepts of salvation proposed by two eminent Christian thinkers of the twentieth century, Paul Tillich (1886-1965) and Edward Schillebeeckx (1914-2009), were presented in the comparative key. None of them needs a special recommendation in the circles of philosophers and religious scholars. They are widely recognized as thinkers who consistently seek reconciliation between religious faith and contemporary culture. Despite their generational and religious differences, they consciously sought to create a synthesis in which philosophy and theology, while maintaining their right autonomy, complement each other and remain in a creative dialogue.

The aim of the doctoral thesis is the reconstruction and comparison of the soteriology of Tillich and Schillebeeckx. The problems of existence, alienation, suffering, hope, liberation, responsibility and repair of the world were captured by them in an original and creative way. The dissertation critically presents the content and genesis of their views, points to the similarities and differences between them in the philosophical and ideological aspects. It also reveals the universalism of soteriological ideas that can be a valuable inspiration for modern people living in the era of “eclipse of humanity”.

The dissertation uses the method of analysis and comparative interpretation of philosophical texts by Tillich and Schillebeeckx in accordance with predetermined levels of comparisons.

The presented dissertation consists of three chapters, introduction, conclusion and bibliography. The first chapter contains an analysis of the anthropological thought of Tillich and Schillebeeckx, who capture the human being as alienated existence. Pointing to the signs and contexts of actual alienation, they seek authentic salvation, criticizing both autosoteric concepts and all ideological utopian projects. In the second chapter, reflections on the sense and the final sources of salvation were made. It made a comparison between Tillich's conception of the New Being as the carrier of salvation and the idea developed by Schillebeeckx for the salvific orthopraxis of Jesus as an icon of freedom and liberation. The third chapter presents the views of Tillich and Schillebeeckx on the relationship of salvation with time, history, immortality and human suffering, and shows the arguments for the dialectical dimension of salvation.

In the extended conclusion, the results of the conducted research on the soteriology of the above-mentioned outstanding European intellectuals were presented in a comparative key. The thesis on the complementarity of the soteriological projects of Tillich and Schillebeeckx closely related to the concept of human being as alienated existence was justified.

ks. Antoni Nalborczyk