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EASTERN ORTHODOXY AND THE SCIENCE-THEOLOGY DIALOGUE

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Abstract: This study examines the science-theology dialogue from the perspective of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and provides a critique of this dialogue based on six fundamental aspects of that theology: (1) its understanding of how philosophy may authentically be used in the theological task; (2) its understanding of the use and limitations of scientific and theological languages; (3) its understanding of the role of humanity in bringing God's purposes to fulfilment; (4) its sense that material entities should be understood less in materialist terms than in relation to the mind of God; (5) its Christological focus in understanding the concept of creation; and (6) its sense that the empirical world can be understood theologically only when the 'world to come' is taken fully into account. It is argued that Orthodoxy either provides an alternative pan-Christian vision to the currently predominant one or, at the very least, provides important new conceptual insights.

Keywords: Christianity, Eastern Orthodoxy, philosophy of religion, philosophical theology, science and religion

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Contents

Introduction	1
1 Natural Theology	5
2 The Languages of Science and Theology	16
3 Body, Mind, and the 'Mind of God'	21
4 Panentheism and Christology	34
5 Divine Action	40
6 Naturalism and the 'Miraculous'	47
7 An Eschatologically Focused and Trinitarian Understanding	51
Afterword	62
Bibliographies	64