ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tracing the roots of the following project is an almost impossible task. My indebtedness stretches in all directions from the foreground into the cloudy and dark horizons of my life-world. Anyone remotely familiar with such a task as the writing of a dissertation realizes that both the fullness and the emptiness of life at all levels have played a role in its development and execution.

There are certain individuals, however, to whom I wish to express my appreciation even if many must remain unnamed who have played tremendous roles. Foremost, I thank my parents, not only for who they are as persons and in their role of parenting (in that they passed on a tradition not in terms of its regulating of life, but rather in terms of its enabling of life), but in addition who have assisted and encouraged me in trust when assuming often that they did not (or could not) understand. Both for his encouragement and understanding, but foremost for his example and own work, I am deeply indebted to my dissertation advisor, Prof. Paul Ricoeur. Not only for his careful reading of an early draft of Chapter I of this project, by which he saved me from deep embarassment by suggesting it be discarded, but for playing an important role at earlier stages of my educational development, contributing to my studying at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago in the first place, I owe not only deep thanks, but the highest respect, to Prof. David Tracy. For conversations and timely suggestions that led to substantive ingredients of the following project, I am thankful, as well, to Prof. Langdon Gilkey. This project would never have been undertaken if I had not read Martin Heidegger, and, for the initial stimulation of curiosity that resulted in my tackling <u>Being and Time</u> for the first time, I owe thanks to my first course at The Chicago Theological Seminary taught by Prof. Ross Snyder and, perhaps above all, to a presentation made in that course by a student, Chris Modischer.

This work is the result, as well, of innumerable conversations which are ongoing. To R. Gilman, E. Crump, P. Kaufman, and B. DeFord, I owe far more than I can put into words, not only for the level and quality of their roles as conversation partners, but for their representing in fact what we all wish to achieve in principle: the passion for, and facilitating of, the life of the mind as nothing other than rooted in world.

There are those, in addition, who have suffered, as well as supported this odyssey for longer, or shorter, periods of time, and thanks is not enough to say to Libby and Margit for what they have undergone, endured, and given for the sake of whatever success this project might have.

My work has a whole other dimension to it, than planned realistically at its conception, as a result of my being able to study and live in Germany for the past three years. The concretization of this dream I owe to my parents and, foremost, to the trusting - generosity of a layperson in my home Conference of the United Methodist Church. What I owe to P. Wiley can never be adequately articulated, and I can only hope that this present project (and subsequent ones) is/are worthy of such trust.

Last, but not least, there is a "Tübingen Circle" that contributed much to making these three years in Germany so valuable by helping with humor to overcome the differences between these cultures, while encouraging the pursuit of thought and writing. Included in this circle are M. Stortz, J. Stillwell, M. Bunge, M. Hinsdale, S. Briggs, W. Campbell, and W. Madges.

This work is dedicated to the memory of Norman Perrin, whose work and courses inspired it, and to Sarah and Hanna as representatives of a new generation that will struggle with the same task attempted in this text, if, of course, in their own way and with their own questions, i.e., the task of understanding.

Tübingen August, 1983 In the 148th year following the publication of David F. Strauß' Life of Jesus Critically Examined

> Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another. Mark 9:50b