

Religion in America

Swiss Theologian Considered Greatest of Present Century

By LOUIS CASSELS
Dr. Karl Barth of Basel, Switzerland, is a short, stooped man of 76. He peers at the world through thick eyeglasses and usually wears a small, quizzical smile. He has been a dominant figure in Protestant theology for the past 40 years, and scholars today refer to him matter-of-factly as the greatest theologian of this century and one of the greatest of all time.

Dr. Barth has been in the United States for the past month. It is his first visit to this country. He delivered a series of lectures at the University of Chicago, and a similar series at Princeton Theological Seminary. Last week he was in Washington, D.C., for seminars at George Washington University and American University.

In these talks, Dr. Barth has sought to summarize and clarify the main themes of the "evangelical theology" which he has expounded in more than 200 books.

Some laymen who have heard him speak have come away wondering, "What's so new about that?"

Would Delight Barth

The question would delight Dr. Barth. His purpose has never been to offer novel, modern interpretations of Christianity. What he has sought to do—and in great measure, has succeeded in doing—is to rescue theology from the by-ways of 19th Century liberalism and bring it back to the broad high road of the Gospel.

Where liberalism tended to focus on human experience, and to reason upward from man, nature and history toward a concept of God, Dr. Barth took exactly the opposite approach. He began where the prophets of ancient Israel began, with the Supreme Fact of a creating and sustaining God who is "wholly other" than man, who entirely transcends man's finite cosmos of time and space, and who can never be apprehended or understood by His human creatures except as He chooses to reveal Himself to them.

It is both presumptuous and futile, Dr. Barth said, for men to speculate about what God "ought" to be like, or in what manner he "should" reveal himself. Man can only listen for God's own "Word" or self-expression. This "Word" requires no external validation; it authenticates itself because the God who speaks it is also present in human hearts, enabling men to respond in faith and love to truths which they could never reach with the short arms of logic.

*Word Faithfully Recorded

Much confusion about Dr. Barth's theology might be avoided by noting that he uses the term, "Word of God," in the same sense that it is used in the prologue to the Fourth Gospel—namely, to connote the self-revealing activity of God in history.

Dr. Barth believes that this "Word of God" is faithfully recorded in the Bible, and his vigorous insistence on this point has given a mighty impetus to the modern revival of Biblical theology. But he is not a fundamentalist, and he has never subscribed to the fundamentalist view that the Bible itself is the literal and infallible word of God.

To Dr. Barth, as to Martin Luther, the Bible's supreme importance stems from its testimony to Jesus Christ, "the Word made flesh."

Dr. Barth's theology is totally Christ-centered. In a sense, all of his books are commentaries on the basic fact that the transcendent, unknowable God has condescended more men by "taking up humanity" in Christ, thus bridging the gulf between Creator and creature which could never have been crossed from the other side.

He sharply disagrees with the theologians such as Germany's Rudolph Bultmann who told that there are "mythological" elements in the New Testament. Barthian theology strongly affirms that the life, death and bodily resurrection of Christ were real events "in time and space."

At the same time, Dr. Barth rejects any attempt to "prove" the historicity of the Resurrection. The methods of historical science, he says, cannot go beyond the testimony of the "witnesses" which is recorded in the New Testament.

"It was granted to them," says Dr. Barth, "to hear the Word of God in its glory, as a pledge, promise, warning and consolation affecting all men." And they were sent into the world with a commission "to attest Jesus as this Word of God to all men."

Men are free to accept their testimony, or to reject it, says Dr. Barth. But it is sheer arrogance for any modern theologian to treat the Biblical witnesses "as though he were better informed about the Word of God than they were."

"Even the smallest, the strangest, the simplest, the obscurest among them has an incomparable advantage over even the most pious, scholarly and sagacious later theologian," he says, for these witnesses experienced a "direct confrontation" with God

which is unique in human history.

But modern man need only rely on blind trust in the Biblical witnesses to accept the good news they proclaimed. The same Holy Spirit which enabled the first Apostles to see and understand the risen Christ still dwells "not only among men, but in them," and by the enlightening power of his action, Christians of the 20th Century can be as certain as those of the First Century that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself."

Although Karl Barth has an encyclopedic knowledge of modern thought, and is recognized even among non-Christian philosophers as one of the towering intellects of this or any other age, he has shown an increasing disposition over the years to avoid technical jargon in expressing his profound insights.

"My experience has been," he said recently, "that if I simply repeat what the Bible says about God, the people understand. We clergymen should do this more often, I think."

In the churches, there are sinners too. But they think they are saints, and I do not feel at home among sinners, at home."

(REPUBLICAN)
FRED L. WALKER
for
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
• 25 Years Proven Business Success



(X) Pd. Pol. Adv. Walker for County Comm. John Ross, Chm., 230 W. Main, Medford.

SAFEWAY'S



Prices in this advertisement are effective Thursday thru Sunday, May 20 at Safeway in Medford. We reserve the right to limit.

Peanut Butter
Fruit Cocktail
Van Camp Beans

Real Roast Creamy or Chunky

Town House selected fruits. 4 for \$1

Famous pork 'n beans. Reg. 5 for \$1.

3 lb. jar **88^c**

4 303 cans **88^c**

5 No. 2 cans **88^c**

Fresh CORN
Just arrived. The finest golden corn specially selected for superb flavor. Guaranteed by Safeway.

6 ears **49^c**

Visit our "Garden Room" for more produce values like these.

Fresh Pineapple	From Hawaii	ea.	59c
Avocados	Calava buttery rich	2 for	25c
Crisp Celery	Cracklin' fresh	lb.	15c
Tomatoes	Red-Ripe beauties	2-lb. tray	49c

Folger's
49^c lb. 97^c 2 lbs.

New Potatoes White Rose 5 lbs. 29c
Papayas Tree ripened—from Hawaii. ea. 39c

FROZEN FOODS
Bel-air "Premium Quality" quick-frozen vegetables with a "fresh from the garden" flavor.

Whole Kernel Corn	10-oz. Pkg.
Sweet Young Peas	10-oz. Pkg.
French Fries	Reg. or Crinkle Cut—9-oz. Pkg.
Potato Patties	12-oz. Pkg.
Leaf Spinach	And Chopped—12-oz. Pkg.
Chopped Broccoli	10-oz. Pkg.

MIX 'EM OR MATCH 'EM

6 for 88^c

SNOW STAR ICE CREAM
Fine Quality. 4 Delicious Flavors. Reg. 75c

SAFEWAY Money Saver

1/2 Gal. 59^c

TOWN HOUSE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Cling sliced peaches, unpeeled apricot halves, fruit cocktail, fancy cut green beans, cream style corn and peas.

7 8 oz. cans 88^c

Dairy & Delicatessen COTTAGE CHEESE
Lucerne Dairy Rich

pint	19 ^c	quart	38 ^c
1/2 gal.	75^c		

Macaroni Salad Dressing
Lucerne. Reg. 39c. Ready to serve

Pint **29c**

8 oz. ctn. **39c**

Klamath Forester Plans Norway Trip

Yreka - Forest Supervisor Charles A. Yates has announced that Thomas J. Smithberger, a forester on the Yreka staff of the Klamath National Forest will leave soon to spend a year studying forestry in Norway.

Smithberger has received a Fulbright Grant from the department of state for the academic year 1962-63 during which he will be affiliated with the Agricultural College of Norway and The Norwegian Forest Research Institute at Vollebakk.

The grant will be used by Smithberger to study Norwegian methods of determining and predicting forest growth.

Baker Reclamation Project Approved

Washington - UPI - The House Reclamation subcommittee Wednesday recommended construction of the \$6 million Baker Reclamation Project in Oregon.

The subcommittee approved a bill by Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) to build Mason Dam on the Powder river south of Baker to provide irrigation facilities in the area.

The bill was amended in line with an Interior Department recommendation to allow exceptions from the 160-acre limitation on lands served with project water. The limit may be exceeded on lands of lower quality.

The full interior committee is expected to take up the bill next week.

Free Vacation Trip for Two

Hurry! Contest closes May 19. You can win a fabulous trip to Hawaii via Pan American Airlines. Nothing to buy... nothing to write. Just pick up your FREE-entry blank at Safeway.

