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Australia

27/6/39

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Dear Dr Barth:

You are often in my thoughts, and I have many times purposed writing to you since I received your letter about a year ago, which answered my inquiry about Niemöller. It is regrettable that I cannot read German, and that I have to wait so long for some of your books to be published in English. I am eagerly awaiting the second volume of Church Dogmatics, which G. T. Thomson is steadily translating.

It is with gratitude that I read recently, your Gifford Lecture: "The Knowledge of God and the Service of God." Would that all ministers of the Church might read it!

You are being concentrated more and more on the Lord Jesus Christ. I wholly agree with you. I can scarcely find a place where I might contradict you; and few things would please me more than to meet you in

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Standard, and measuring rod. There is much loose, speculative thinking in English Theology - not bound to the Word of God - incorrigibly Pelagian. God have mercy on England.

We watch the struggle in Germany with the utmost sympathy for the Confessional Church, though little news comes through. The Nazis seem to have a strange hold. But God is able to deliver. At my Church meeting this Evening, we remembered the persecuted Church before God.

My friend in Sydney - The Rev H. J. Young wrote the other day, saying he had received a photograph of yourself from you. Would I be taxing you too much if I made a request that you treat me with equal generosity? We are of the same age. I was born in January 22nd 1886; and you in May? God has mightily used you, is using, and will use. I am far behind. But may He be pleased to use me to speak His Word in Australia; and may He quicken us according to His Word.

Recently I had the opportunity of addressing the Presbyterian Elders' Association

discussion, so that I may be more confirmed
in the Faith.

It may please you to know
that in far away Australia, there are some
guys who understand the signs you are waving,
amid surging ^{currents} which are against the Church
on the Continent - and among us too.

I have read Dr Frey's splendid book -
"The Cross and Swastika" with that Introduction
by you. There has also recently come to us,
"The Holy Ghost and the Christian Life", translated
by Birch Hoyle. I wish someone would
translate your "Double Predestination" and
your "Nein!"

I have just read two books by
the American Walter H. Horton, on "Con-
temporary English Theology" and "Contemporary
Continental Theology". I find it hard to be
patient with his Semi-Calvinist, "Liberal
Catholic" viewpoint. His summary of English
Theology is sad reading, especially as he
seems so satirized with it. He is a spectator,
and does not sense the life-and-death
struggle; although as a spectator he has
many quite insights. I am glad to note
that in "Contemporary Continental Theology" he
is compelled to make Barth's witness a

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of Victoria. Faray asking a Methodist to speak to them! They set on the subject, and you will find, inclosed, a report from the Presbyterian "Messenger", which it may interest you to read.

To-day I received a letter from the Secretary of the Association, which says:—"You can feel assured that you have deeply interested many of our members in the teaching of Karl^{the} and what the Confessional Church stands for."

I replied saying to the effect that Karl Barth would not give evidence for any witness concerning him, but that he would rejoice to know that they were hearing the Word of God, Jesus Christ.

The situation in Europe - and throughout the world, in fact, - is growing more tense. God's judgments are abroad; but how unsearchable they are, and this way past finding out! May He arise, and His sovereign will be done. My own view is always sub specie Crucis et Resurrectionis. He who shared not this only Son, How shall He not...?

I share with you your horror at the present situation - the apostasy of the Church. But He knows His own. I must write to you more frequently whether you have time to reply or not. Why should not one express his gratitude? With kindest regards. Yours in Grace. W.H. Baumbruggen