

Basel Professor of Theology urges Christian Dynamism

"Americans can beat nazi heathen dynamism with a dynamism based on a true knowledge of the will of God," says Professor Karl Barth well-known Swiss opponent of National Socialism and leader in the German Confessing Church. "Nazi dynamism based on self-glorification and the deification of natural instincts is stronger than skepticism and unbelief. It can only be beaten by the real Christian faith."

"I am against making a crusade of this war or of putting an American-invented God up against a nazi-invented God. Only soldiers serving the true God can beat the soldiers of the nazi man-made God."

Recent anti-Christian utterances and acts of nazi leaders leave Professor Barth cold, because he has long foreseen and prophesied them. "These things are only the logical consequence of nazi principles which we of the German Confessing Church recognized ~~many months~~ in 1933 and have fought since then. They are nothing compared with what will come if the nazis continue to win military ~~success~~ success." Professor Barth ~~characterized~~ characterized Communist anti-Christianity as mere bungling compared to nazi anti-Christianity. Why? "Because nazi anti-Christianity is coupled with anti-Semitism of a most violent and thorough form. When you strike Israel you strike directly at Christ. Israel is the root Christ is the branch. Hitler when he ~~said~~ said recently that the sole aim of this entire war is the ~~extermination~~ extermination of the Jews meant also the extermination of Christianity. Hitler is fighting Christ through the Jews though he is sometimes unaware of it himself. Communist anti-Christianity on the other hand is based on a misunderstanding, the confusion of the corrupt Tsarist church with Christianity. If I had to choose I would a thousand times prefer living under Communism." "The strongest weapon against nazism is ~~an~~ an absolute Christian point of view. Where in the occupied countries is there still ~~resistance~~ resistance? In Christian circles - especially in ~~Holland~~ Holland and Norway. Hitler has made himself into a god. He has assumed divine powers to decide on good and evil and to form men's conscience. He will be swept away by a higher ~~power~~ power as the many like him in history." "I wish you Americans luck," said the plucky pastor biting his ~~pipe~~ pipe and looking out of his window from where he can almost see across the German border. "American tanks, airplanes, rifles - they are good weapons being used in a good cause. Just one warning- watch out for ~~pseudo-religion~~ pseudo-religion- don't be like Hitler."

March 4 1942

Refor-
med