

BARTH, Karl. *Call for God: New Sermons from Basel Prison*. tr. by A. T. MacKay. 128p. Harper. 1967. \$3.95. 67-21543. REL

"It is . . . my most important concern, each time I am permitted to be here, that the word from the Bible should stick in your minds and stay with you afterwards rather than my sermon." Thus, Karl Barth, world-famous theologian and writer, explains his pastoral ministry to the Spitalstrasse prisoners at Basel, Switzerland. These 12 sermons record his Biblical preaching for Advent, Christmas, the end of the year (four sermons), Easter, and Holy Communion. The last named, entitled "Call Me," is a homiletical gem. The sermons reveal his rare ability to relate the prisoners to the whole world of men and to the church. His

effective use of humor and life situations reveals his empathy. The prayers, with which he begins and ends his sermons, express the "inexhaustible mercy" of God, and contemporize the sermon text. They compose one-fifth of the printed text. Preaching generally would be improved if Karl Barth's exegetical rule were followed: from the end of the text to the beginning. Public libraries and special collections find this sermon collection useful.—G. Martin Ruoss, North Central College & Evangelical Theological Seminary Library, Naperville, Ill.

This is an uncorrected proof of a review scheduled for Library Journal, Oct. 15, 1967