

Contents

List of Abbreviations	15
Translator's Foreword	17
Those for whom this book is written	19
A. THE HORIZON	23
I. <i>The Challenge of Modern Humanisms</i>	25
1. <i>Turning to man</i>	26
Secular world	26
Opening out of the Churches	28
2. <i>Christianity for sale?</i>	31
Has Christianity lost its soul?	31
No return	35
3. <i>No abandonment of hope</i>	37
Humanity through technological evolution?	38
Humanity through politico-social revolution?	43
Between nostalgia and reformism	51
II. <i>The Other Dimension</i>	57
1. <i>Approach to God</i>	57
Transcendence?	57
The future of religion	60
Proofs of God?	64
More than pure reason	68
2. <i>The reality of God</i>	69
The hypothesis	70
Reality	73

Ambiguity of the concept of God	79
The task of theology	83
III. <i>The Challenge of the World Religions</i>	89
1. <i>Salvation outside the Church</i>	89
Revalued religions	89
Wealth of the religions	91
2. <i>Bewildering consequences</i>	97
Anonymous Christianity?	97
Superior ignorance?	99
3. <i>Challenge on both sides</i>	100
No leveling down	100
Helpful diagnosis	104
4. <i>Not exclusiveness, but uniqueness</i>	110
Christian existence as critical catalyst	110
Common quest for truth	112
B. THE DISTINCTION	117
I. <i>What Is Special to Christianity?</i>	119
1. <i>The Christ</i>	119
Dangerous memory	119
Taking concepts at their face value	122
2. <i>Which Christ?</i>	126
The Christ of piety?	126
The Christ of dogma?	129
The Christ of the enthusiasts?	133
The Christ of literature?	138
II. <i>The Real Christ</i>	145
1. <i>Not a myth</i>	145
In time and place	146
Uncertainties	149
2. <i>The documents</i>	150
More than a biography	150
Committed testimonies	153

<i>Contents</i>	9
3. <i>History and faith's certainty</i>	155
Counterquestions about Jesus	156
Justifiable faith	161
Historical criticism—an aid to faith?	163
III. <i>Christianity and Judaism</i>	166
1. <i>The sufferings of the past</i>	166
Jesus the Jew	167
A history of blood and tears	168
2. <i>Future possibilities</i>	169
Increasing understanding	169
Discussion about Jesus?	172
C. THE PROGRAM	175
I. <i>The Social Context</i>	177
1. <i>Establishment?</i>	177
The religio-political system	177
Neither priest nor theologian	178
Not with the rulers	179
Radical change	180
2. <i>Revolution?</i>	183
The revolutionary movement	183
Hope of a liberator	185
Not a social revolutionary	187
Non-violent revolution	189
3. <i>Emigration?</i>	192
Apolitical radicalism	192
Monasticism	193
Not a religious	195
Not for the elite, but for all	200
4. <i>Compromise?</i>	201
The devout	202
Moral compromise	204
Not a pious legalist	206
Against self-righteousness	209
Provocative on all sides	211

<i>II. God's Cause</i>	214
1. <i>The Center</i>	214
God's kingdom	214
Apocalyptic horizon	216
Demythologizing inevitable	218
Between present and future	220
God is ahead	223
2. <i>Miracles?</i>	226
Concealing embarrassment	226
What really happened	229
What was transmitted	231
Christian science	233
Indications, not proofs	236
3. <i>The supreme norm</i>	238
No natural law	238
No revealed law	240
God's will instead of legalism	241
The meaning of the Sermon on the Mount	244
<i>III. Man's Cause</i>	249
1. <i>Humanization of man</i>	249
The changed awareness	249
What God wills	251
Relativized traditions, institutions, hierarchs	252
2. <i>Action</i>	255
Both God and man	255
The person who needs me here and now	256
Even enemies	258
True radicalism	262
3. <i>Solidarity</i>	265
Partisan for the handicapped	266
Which poor?	267
The moral failures	271
The law of grace	273
<i>IV. The Conflict</i>	278
1. <i>The decision</i>	278
Those who were for him	278

<i>Contents</i>	11
A Church?	283
Without office or dignity	286
The advocate	291
2. <i>The debate on God</i>	295
Not a new God	295
The God with a human face	300
The God with qualities	304
Revolution in the understanding of God	309
Not an obvious form of address	314
3. <i>The end</i>	318
In face of death	319
A last meal	322
Stages	325
Why?	334
In vain?	339
V. <i>The New Life</i>	343
1. <i>The beginning</i>	343
Introduction	343
Clarifications	348
The ultimate reality	356
Legends?	361
Origin of faith	370
2. <i>The criterion</i>	381
Justified	381
Honorific titles	384
Representation	389
The definitive standard	392
3. <i>The ultimate distinction</i>	396
Revaluation	396
Beyond fanaticism and rigidity	399
By faith alone	402
No other cause	406
VI. <i>Interpretations</i>	411
1. <i>Discriminating interpretation</i>	411
Limits to demythologization	412

Truth is not simply facticity	415
Narrative presentation and critical reflection	416
2. <i>Interpretations of death</i>	419
No uniform theory	419
Slain for us	421
Sacrifice?	424
God and suffering	428
3. <i>Interpretations of the origin</i>	436
Become man	436
Deification or humanization?	440
True God and true man	444
Born of a woman	450
Mary	457
VII. <i>Community of Faith</i>	463
1. <i>Inspired and inspiring word</i>	463
Inspiration?	463
Word of God?	466
2. <i>The one Spirit</i>	468
Unholy and holy Spirit	468
Trinity	472
3. <i>The pluriform Church</i>	478
Assembly, congregation, Church	478
Community in liberty, equality, fraternity	481
Charisms, offices, ministries	484
The diverse constitutions	488
A Petrine ministry?	494
4. <i>The great mandate</i>	502
Catholic-Protestant	502
Provisional Church	504
Serving Church	505
Guilty Church	507
Determined Church	508
D. PRACTICE	511
I. <i>The Practice of the Church</i>	514
1. <i>Decision for faith</i>	514

<i>Contents</i>	13
A personal decision	514
Criticism of the Church	517
2. <i>Decision for the Church</i>	521
Why stay?	522
Practical suggestions	525
Against discouragement	527
Why can we hope?	529
II. <i>Being Human and Being Christian</i>	530
1. <i>Norms of the human</i>	530
Human autonomy	531
Man's theonomy	534
The unconditioned in the conditioned	536
Uncertainty of norms	539
2. <i>The criterion for deciding what is Christian</i>	540
Specifically Christian norms?	541
Concrete person instead of abstract principle	544
The distinctive Christian element in ethics	549
The basic model	551
III. <i>Being Christian as Being Radically Human</i>	554
1. <i>Social relevance</i>	554
No political short cuts	555
Social consequences	558
Commitment to liberation	562
No uncritical identifications	565
2. <i>Coping with the negative side</i>	570
Misused cross	571
Misunderstood cross	573
Understood cross	576
3. <i>Liberated for freedom</i>	581
Justification or social justice?	581
What is not ultimately important	583
What is ultimately important	586
4. <i>Suggestions</i>	590
Freedom in the legal order	590
Freedom in the struggle for power	593

Freedom from the pressure of consumption	595
Freedom to serve	598
Human existence transfigured in Christian existence	601
 Basic Theological Literature	 603
 Notes	 607
Section A	
Section B	620
Section C	630
Section D	678
 Index	 688