

Feb. 9, 1963

Prof. D. R. Bultmann  
Marburg a.d. Lahn  
Calvinstrasse 14  
Germany

Dear Dr. Bultmann,

Although it has now been two years since I received your extraordinarily helpful critique of my treatment of your ethics in my dissertation, you must not construe my tardiness as a lack of gratitude or interest. Since then I have been working on several manuscripts, preparing new lectures and trying to survive a heavy teaching schedule.

Although you might (correctly) perceive that I feel somewhat chagrined and guilty that I have not made sooner reply to your excellent critique, I cannot resist the temptation to observe that it was actually the internalization of your own teaching on radical obedience as hearkening to the demands of the moment which in part prevented an earlier reply, since so many neighbors have called me in their need that it made you seem like a most distant neighbor. Howevermuch that may be, I remain grateful that you regarded me sufficiently as a neighbor to provide me with a thoughtful and stimulating ~~response~~ response to my work.

You may be pleased to hear that The Westminster Press has decided to publish a revision of that portion of my dissertation which deals with your ethics. It is tentatively to be titled Radical Obedience: A Study of the Ethics of Rudolf Bultmann. Since no full-length discussion of your ethical analysis has appeared in English (or to my knowledgg in any other language) this development pleases me very much because it will tend to broaden the discussion of your theology beyond the range of methodological, hermeneutical and historical issues ~~which~~ which it has occasionally become short-sightedly preoccupied. It is my firm conviction that your proposals for Christian ethics are no less significant than for demythologizing and existantial analysis.

In order to be fair to your position, especially in certain respects in which you have differed ~~in~~ certain ways with my analysis, The Westminster Press has asked if they could publish as an appendix to this book a translation of your letter to me reviewing my analysis. This would be quite all right with me and if it would be permissable from your point of view, I would be glad to send you my translation of your letter for your correction or comment.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Oden

