

July 15th, 1956
815 E. Cypress
Altus, Oklahoma

Prof. H. Richard Niebuhr
Director of Graduate Studies
Yale Divinity School
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Professor Niebuhr,

I would appreciate it if you would send me the description of the special requirements in the field of Christian Ethics for your doctoral program.

I have received the new bulletins for the year 1956-57 and am delighted at the number of courses which will be offered this coming fall and spring which I think will be helpful to me. I am especially glad to see the announcement of Prof. Calhoun's Seminar in Tertullian and Hartt's course in Existentialism, and your Seminar entitled "Theology and language" looks terribly interesting to me, as well as many other courses listed. I hope that I will be permitted to participate in some of these.

I think that I will be prepared to take language exams in French, Latin and German this fall. I regret very much that I have never taken Greek, but I am trying to learn to use a lexicon in both Greek and Hebrew.

As you might expect, I have not been quite able to keep the pace of the much-too-ambitious reading schedule that I set up for myself for the spring and summer. When I arrive in New Haven I will tell you, if you wish, just what I've done, but so far most of my work has centered in the moral writings of Aristotle and Kant, and general readings in Augustine and Luther. Now I am plowing through Spinoza's Ethics and Political-Theological writings.

I feel weak in Old Testament and in Patristic Theology and generally in Church History. I am anxious to talk with you about this and about my whole doctoral program, and will look forward to doing so when I arrive in the fall.

Best regards,

Tom C. Oden
815 E. Cypress
Altus, Oklahoma

