

November 22, 1960

Dr. Claude Welch
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Claude:

I have just begun my work as a teacher here at Phillips Theological Seminary. I find the situation in this atmosphere of pietistic liberalism to be very challenging to my most serious efforts.

The Seminary is now undergoing a period of revolutionary transition. With a new university president (Hallie Gantz) and a new dean shortly to be appointed, many of the younger members of this faculty have high expectations for the future of this seminary. Sooner or later, and we hope sooner, we are going to need to strengthen our department of theology. At present, Eugene Peters (who did his work at Chicago) teaches philosophical theology, and I have been teaching in historical theology and theological ethics. I think our greatest need is for a good, solid, systematic theologian. Of course, the greater his adequacy in historical and contemporary theology, the better. This man should come from one of the major centers of theological education. His age is not important, but we frankly are looking for someone of exceptional brilliance. What makes our search more difficult is that he almost certainly must be a Disciple.

If you happen to know of such a person, we would be most grateful for your passing his name our way. We would greatly benefit from your wisdom on this matter.

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- *134. Karl Barth, CHURCH DOGMATICS Vol. II, Doctrine of God, Part II.
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I have been using Protestant Christianity in my courses in historical theology (post Reformation). I have always appreciated this book, but as I use it more and more with students, I am coming to see what an exceptionally clear and comprehensive presentation it is. I am confident that it will be a standard resource for Protestant theology for many years to come. I am glad to enclose a syllabus of my courses in historical theology, in case you might be interested in seeing some of the work we are doing here.

With all good wishes to you and your family in your new situation, I remain,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Oden

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Enc.

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