

"WORLDLY"

December, 1965

His closest friend said this in interpreting the Christian faith of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "For Bonhoeffer the message of Christ is concrete in itself; as such it is to be preserved costly and to be kept worldly from from any escapism."

(1) Concrete: This says that what we believe in is not mythological spiritualism but the concrete Jesus Christ who really encountered the life we encounter in history, whose self giving in our behalf is a concrete fact and whose victory over death is not the Church's wishful dream but an event that happened and upon which we build today.

(2) Costly: If God so loved us that he not only spoke but acted, not willing simply to send words of comfort to men but to, in fact, come along side, then faith for us means nothing more or less than giving our real selves to this Christ.

(3) Worldly: This means that Christ is Lord of the real world of events and men and that we belong to Him as does the world itself. Therefore, as his disciples we will not run away in fear from our generation. Why should we?

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