

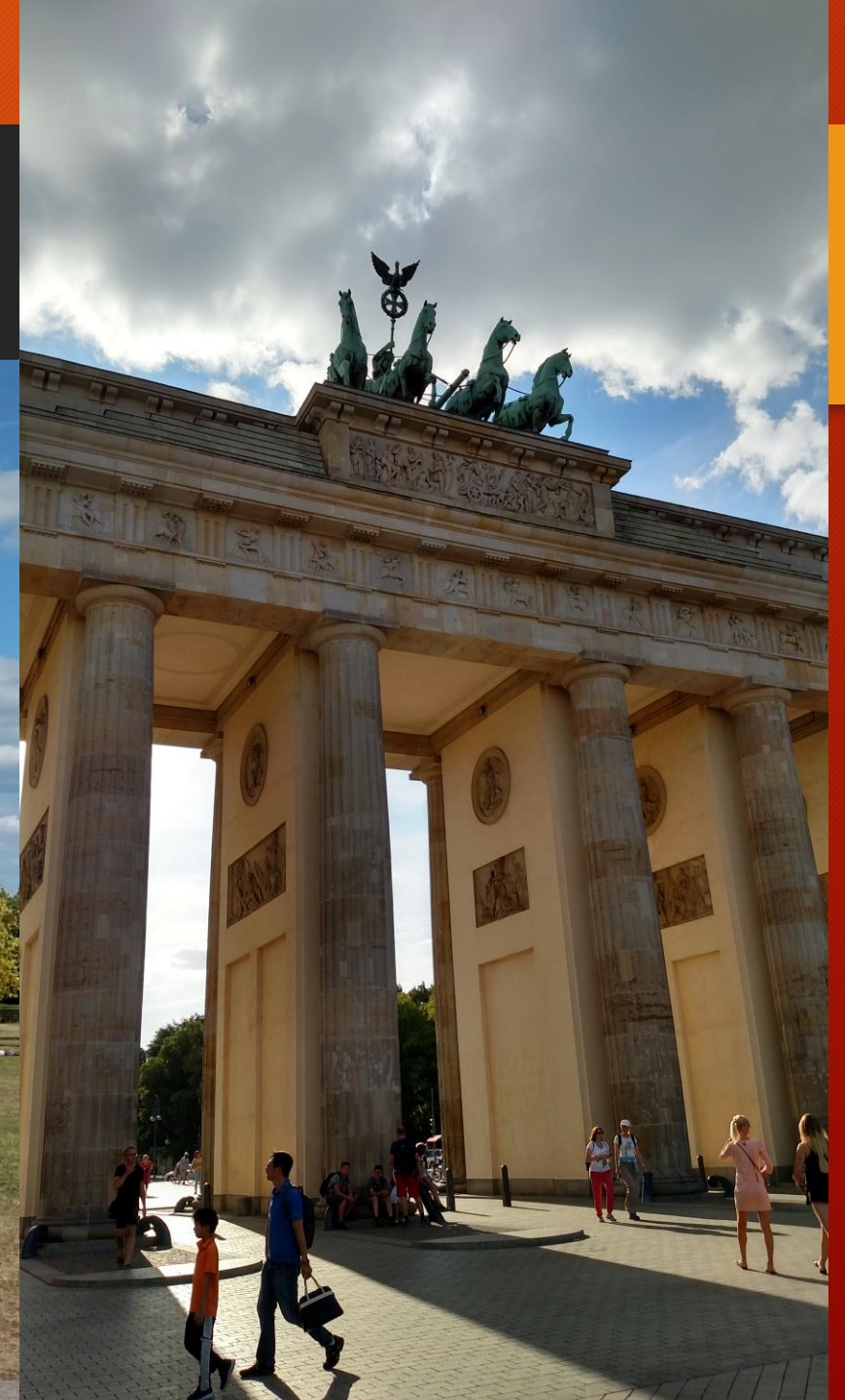
# Bonhoeffer and Berlin

A Compelling Life - A Powerful Theology

Theological Travelogue #2 - Reports from the Summer Sabbatical



# Berlin in August!







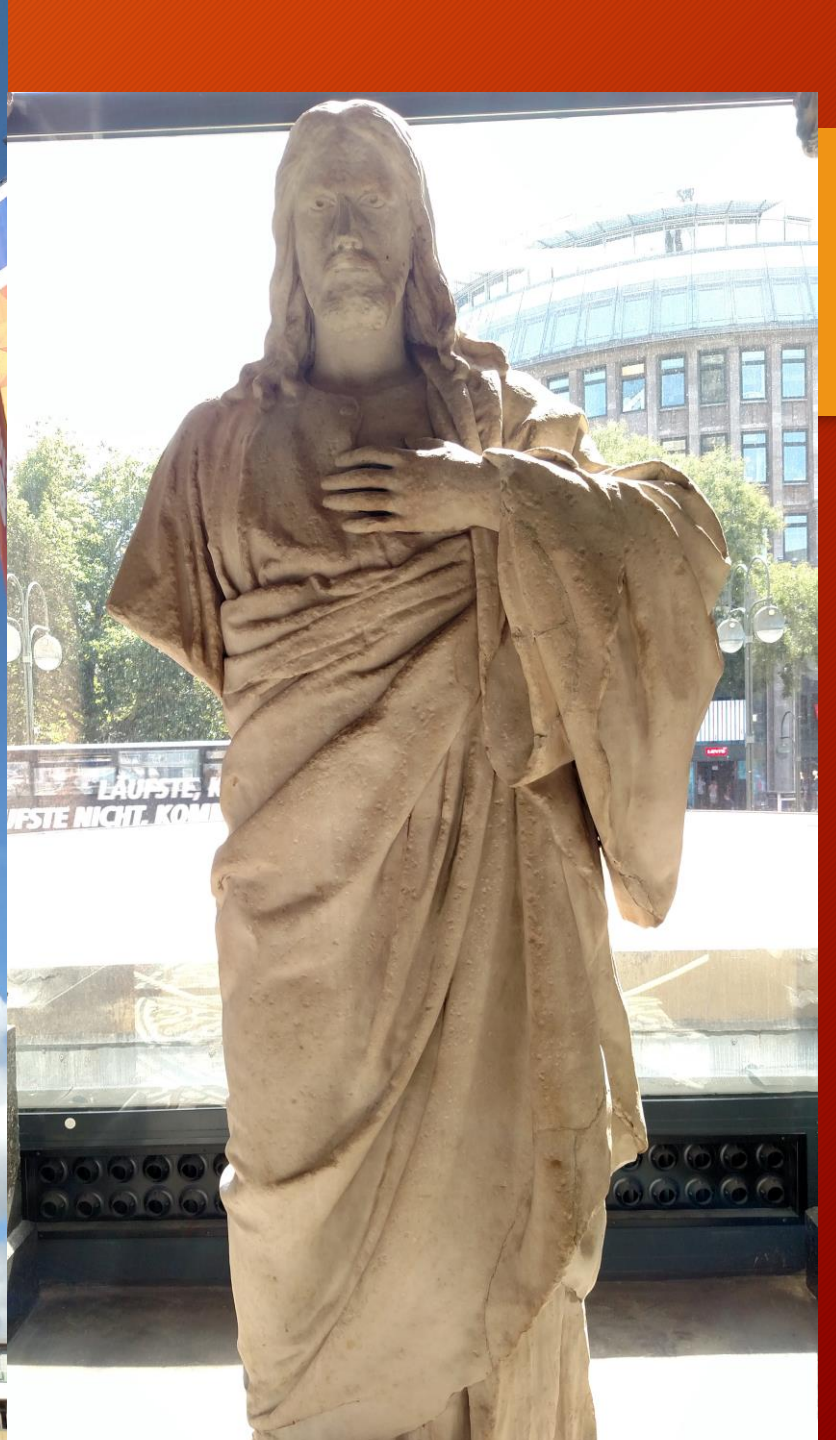






















# 3 Approaches to Bonhoeffer

## Everyone wants to claim Bonhoeffer

1. Revolutionary - “Religionless Christianity”  
Willing to see Christ outside the church in people in the world  
Ex/ Pete Rollins
2. Liberal - Civil Rights particularly of the Jews  
NY and Harlem, Abyssinian Baptist Church Ex/ Charles Marsh
3. Conservative - Cost of Discipleship, Scripture and Christ-centered  
Ex/ Eric Metaxas



# Most Widely Acclaimed Biographies

- Bethge - longest, most trusted, by his close friend  
“Dietrich Bonhoeffer” Eberhard Bethge
- Schlingensiepen - excellent on developments of the church in Germany  
“Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Martyr, Thinker, Man of Resistance”  
Ferdinand Schlingensiepen
- Andrew Root - “Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker” (My Instructor)



# A Compelling Life

- Completed his dissertation and doctorate by age 21
- Wrote Intellectual, Thoughtful, but accessible classics:  
“The Cost of Discipleship” and “Life Together”
- Ecumenical Work Internationally as Secretary for Youth Movement
- Involved in a Plot to Assassinate Hitler
- Imprisoned and Executed just before Germany was liberated by Allies



# Doctor of Ministry Class with Dr. Andrew Root





# In Dietrich's Bedroom!









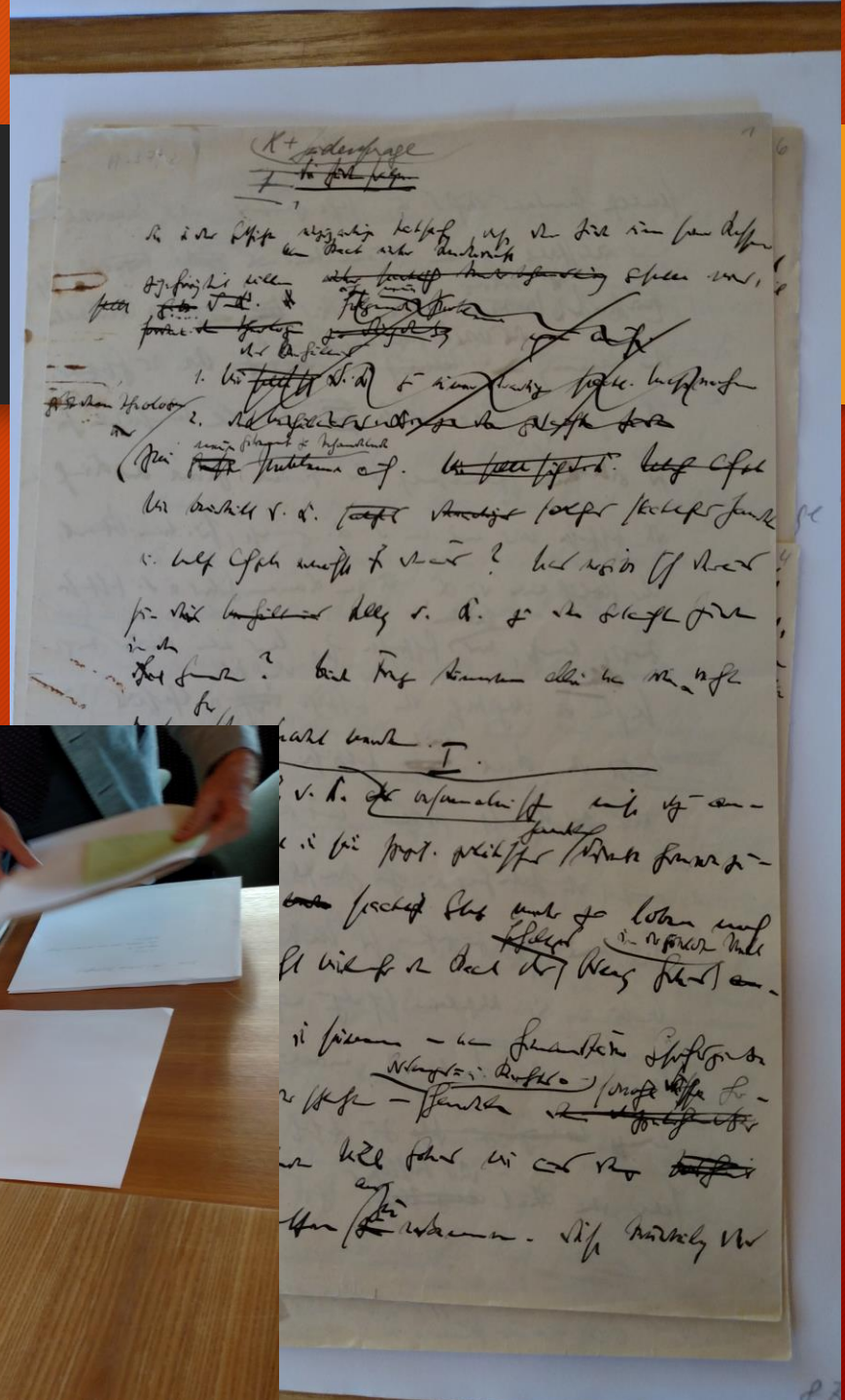
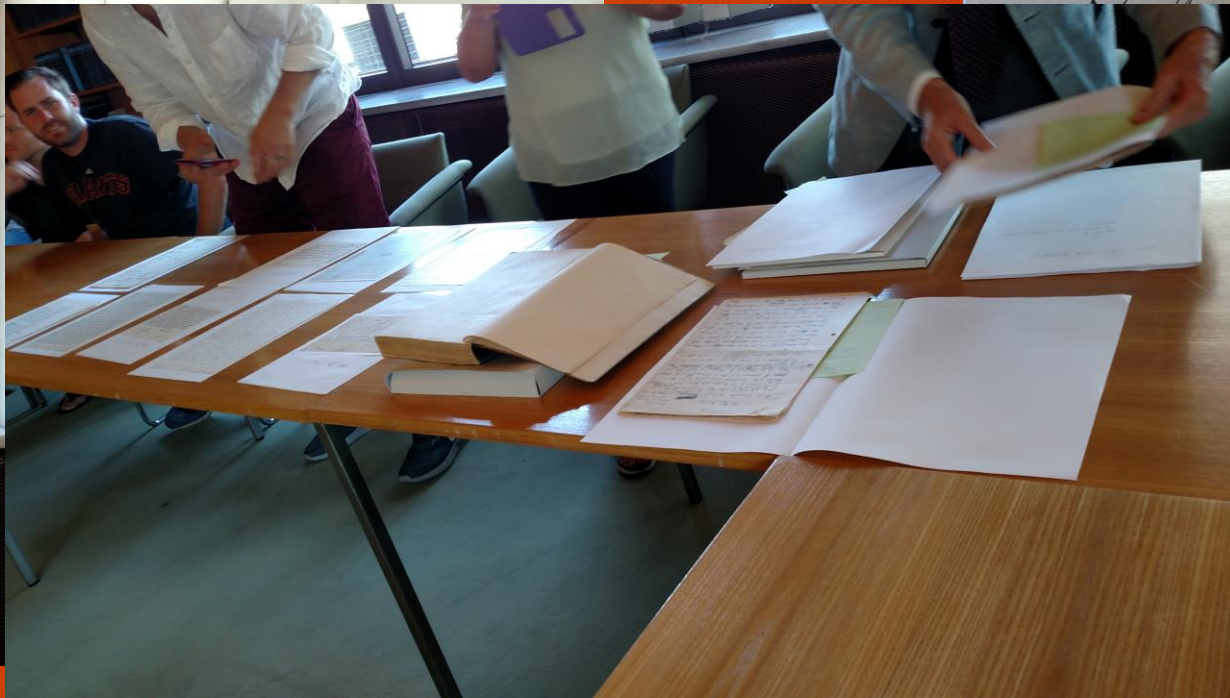








# A Visit to the Archive









# The Early Years...

- Parents - dad: self-made became director of Psychiatry at university in Berlin  
Mom: devout aristocratic family
- Close family - many vacations at the country house - enjoyed being together
- Several brothers and sisters....He is a twin
- Family did not go to church except Christmas and Easter
- But told the stories of the Bible and hired Nannies with faith



# The Early Years

- Used to play “church” with Dietrich as the pastor
- Older brother, Walter, dies in WWI - mom has nervous breakdown
- Dietrich gets brother’s bible
- Age 12-14 - Brother-in-law and uncle older, but pay attention to Dietrich, take to the opera, ask Dietrich’s opinions on current events



# Off to College and Career Path

- The Bonhoeffer family expects all the boys to become Doctors or Lawyers....but Dietrich shocks them....wants to pursue theology - be a professor or pastor
- Doctoral Thesis written aged 19-21
- Sanctorum Communio



# Sanctorum Communio

- What is the church?
- Where is Christ today?
- Multi-Disciplinary Sociology and Theology
- Influenced by Barth
- Liberal Theology is bankrupt - nothing to say that is relevant
- Barth not just return to old, but new way to apply liberal theology
- Liberal Theology - Can't scientifically study God - can study emotions, history, Scriptures
- Barth: you can study Jesus Christ who is God





# Sanctorum Communio

Jesus Christ exists as church in community

*Therefore the task of theology is to discern the  
presence of Jesus,  
but He comes in brokenness and suffering*



# Sanctorum Communio

- Our identity is found in relationship to others
- The Church is not a “society” - an institution, but rather a “Community”

And children are part of that community, central to it



# Incarnational Theology









# The 1930s Dietrich's Early Ministry

- Spain - Children's Minister
- USA Union Seminary - considered by students backward - hadn't yet embraced Barth
- ...on preaching in America, everything but....except black churches
- Visiting Lectures
- Confirmation Classes
- Youth Group
- Inner city children's minister
- Confessing Church
- Traveling with what would become World Council of Churches as Youth Secretary



# 1930's in Germany

- Severe Depression, unemployment hyper inflation
- Dr. Bonhoeffer cashes in Life Insurance policy
- Germany felt treated unfairly after WWI
- Rise of a nationalistic leader - minority party
- Hitler made “president” as a co-governing, conciliatory move



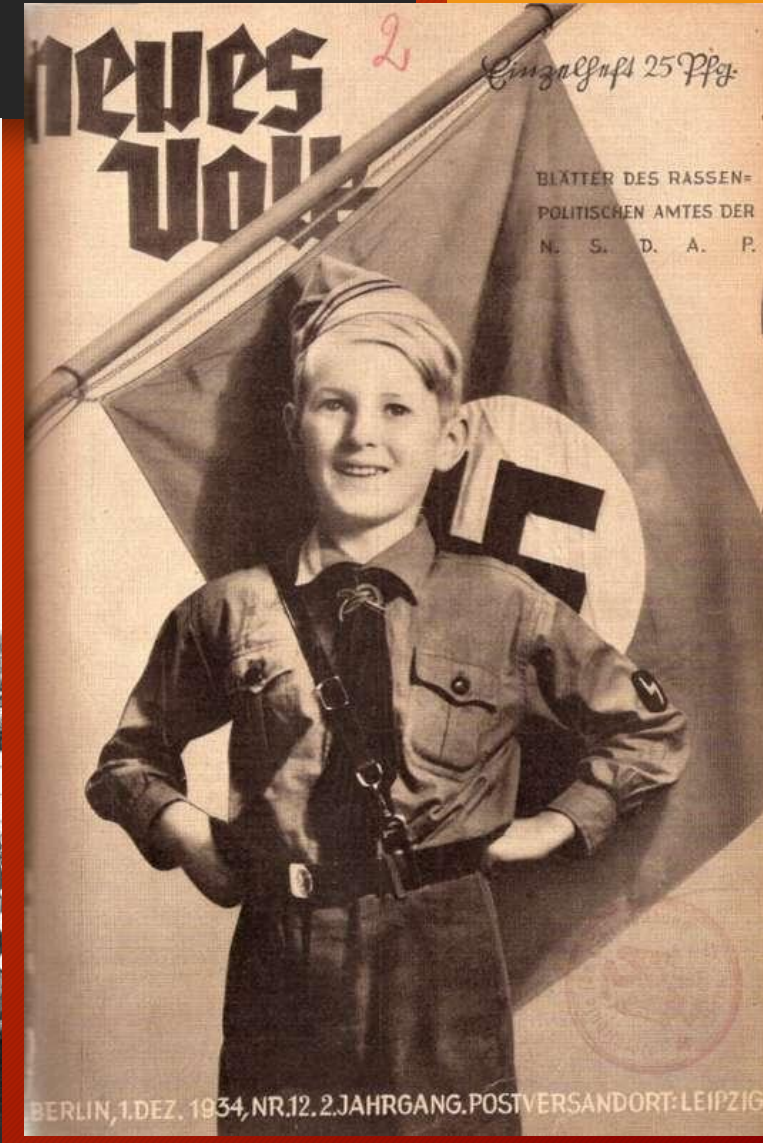
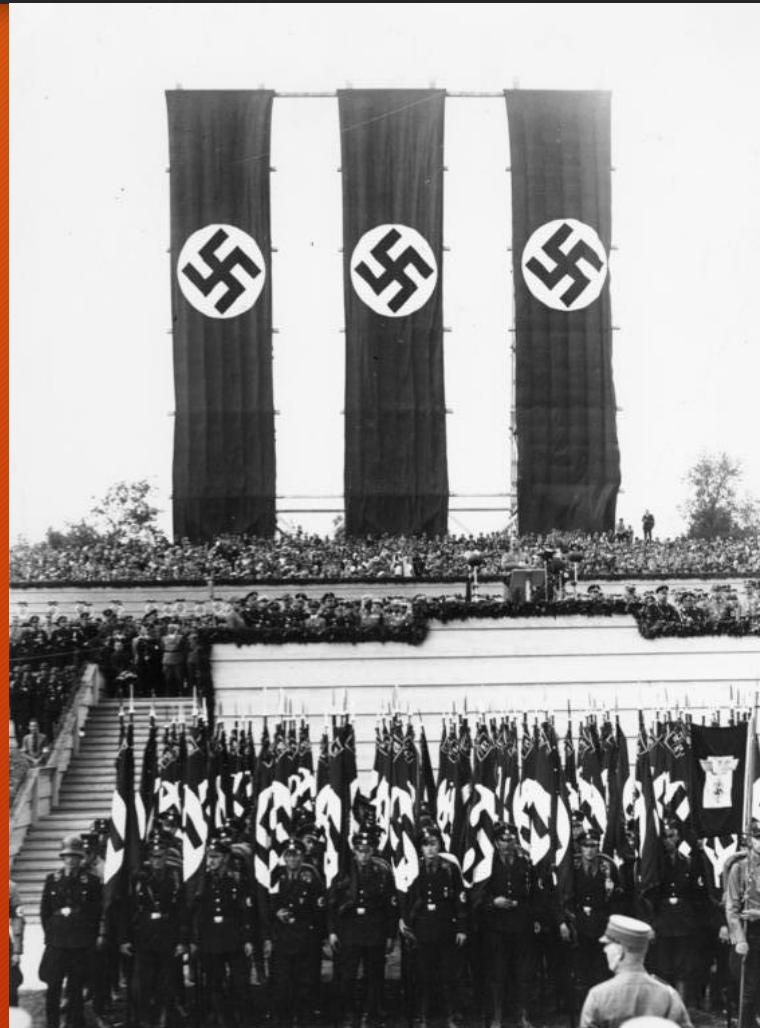
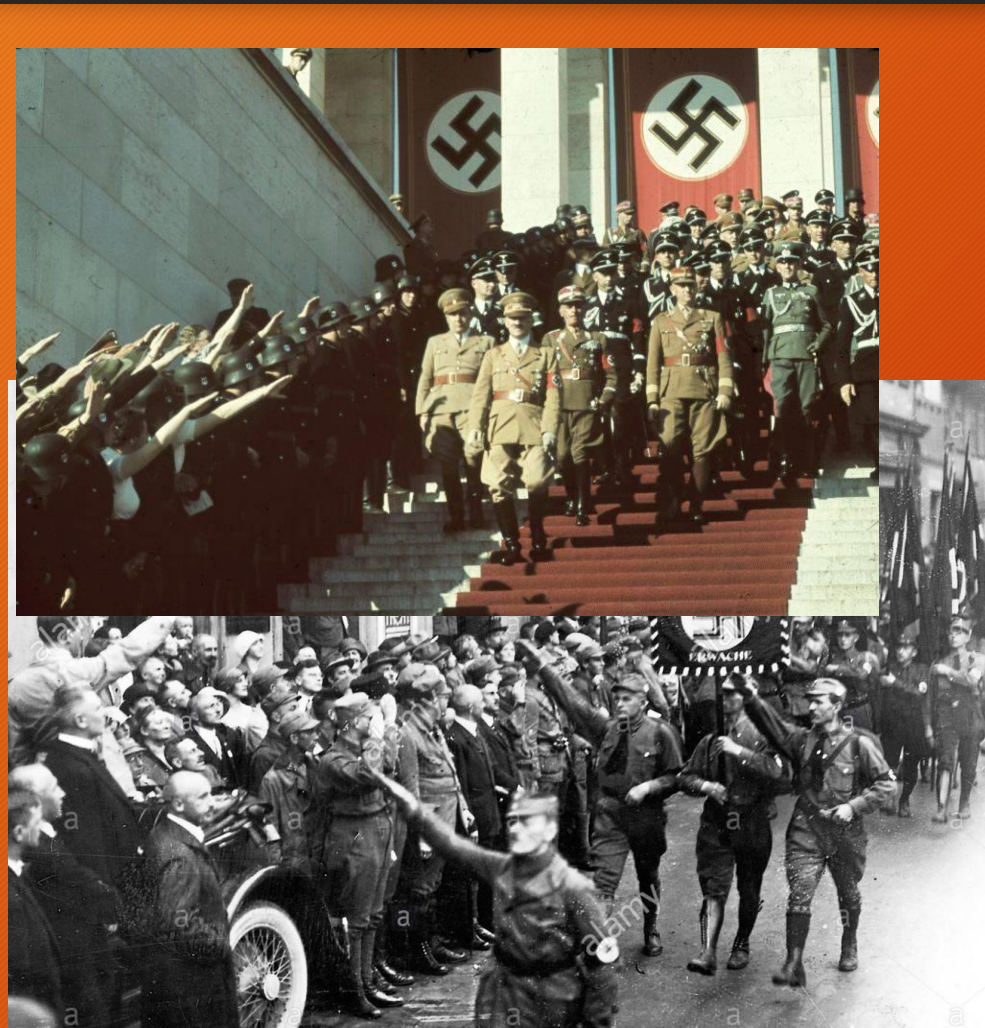
# The Rise of Nazi Germany

- Reichstage Fire - Marshall Law
- Aryan Statement - Jews less human if at all
- The Confessing Church
- Nazi “Integrate” elements of society - including church
- Eventually illegal to speak against Aryan Statement
- Dietrich speaks out vehemently publically against Aryan Statement
- War is looming and Dietrich knows it
- He will be drafted but he is a pacifist
- If drafted and refuse to serve you will be executed





# Silencing Other Voices, Branding, Images, Indoctrinate the youth



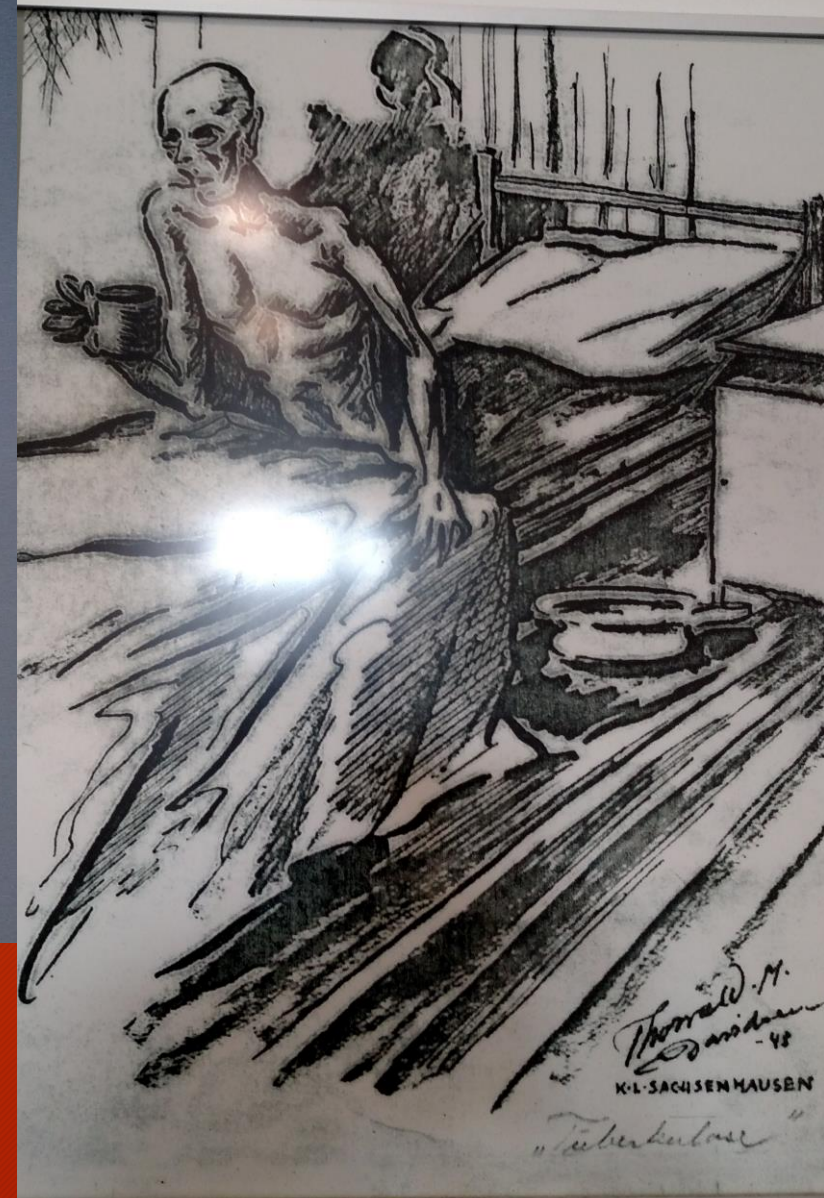


















# Searing the Conscience



Wachmannschaften und Verwaltungspersonal des

Guards and administrative personnel of Neuengamme

1. Dezember 1943



# Searing of Conscience

*"In 1938, we moved to Sachsenhausen, where we lived in a nice little house on the SS housing estate. My wife loved flowers with a passion. Our home was always filled with them, a veritable flower grove [...]. Our life together as a family at Sachsenhausen passed peacefully and uneventfully; nothing out of the ordinary happened."*

Rudolf Höß

adjutant and protective custody camp leader at Sachsenhausen concentration camp from 1938 to 1940,  
subsequently commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp and head of the main department of the Concentration Camps Inspectorate in Oranienburg  
Nuremberg, April 12, 1946



# Worshipping Other Things...



“The defendant had ... resolved to deprive the German nation of its saviour, the man for whom the hearts of 80 million Germans beat with infinite love, reverence, and gratitude, and who need his strength and firm leadership now more than ever.” «

Excerpt from the grounds for the judgement, 18 December 1939







# Martin Niemoller

They came for the disabled, but I did not speak out for I was not disabled.

They came for the communists, but I did not speak out for I was not a communist.

They came for the Jews, but I did not speak out because I am not a Jew.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.



# The Cost of Discipleship - “Follow”

- Talks about “cheap grace”

*“[Cheap Grace means] The Christian need not follow Christ, since the Christian is comforted by grace. This cheap grace is justification of sin, but not justification of the contrite sinner who turns away from sin and repents...Cheap grace is that grace which we bestow upon ourselves. Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance; it is baptism without the discipline of community; it is the Lord’s Supper without confession of sin; it is absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living incarnate Jesus Christ.”*

-- Discipleship p. 44

Preaching the gospel as “cheap grace” Discourages people from living the Christian life....go be forgiven it doesn’t matter what you do. Destroys the church.



# Costly Grace

*“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which has to be asked for, the door at which one has to knock. It is costly, because it calls to discipleship; it is grace because it makes them live....Above all, grace is costly, because it was costly to God, because it costs God the life of God’s Son - ‘you were bought with a price.’”*

-- Discipleship, p. 45

Jesus called us to follow - there is a call to live, obey and give your life to God. Die to self and in doing so discover the real life that God intends for you.



# Costly Grace

- Love is costly
- Love calls us to die to self - to die  
so that you can be raised to new life
- Your mission as a Christian is not to an idea, but to follow



# The Plan to Save Dietrich

Reinhold Niebur arranges for Dietrich to lecture in the USA

But Dietrich can't stay....just here a few days

Last boat back to Germany before war



# The Solution: Work for Military Intelligence

- Hans Von Donyani is in Military Intelligence, enlists Dietrich to be a secret agent - as travels world for ecumenical movement
- But Deitrich is really passing secrets out! A double agent
- Becomes involved in plot to kill Hitler
- Eventually arrested as this office of M.I. got Jews out of Germany



# Arrested in 1943

- Letters from Prison
- He counsels others during air-raids
- He struggles with lying in interrogation





# Executed Just Days Before....

- The Penultimate -
- The Waiting Room -
- Even as being led out to be executed





# Lessons Learned

- USA is not Nazi Germany - demeaning and offensive to sufferers through this period and the holocaust to say so

However:

- Dangers and Warning Signs - branding, silencing dissenting voices, monolithic viewpoint with lack of conversation, dehumanizing others...
- Knowing when to not go along - practicing good intellectual hygiene
- Don't compromise moral principles to be expedient...German church
- Admit mistakes...the church after the war



# Lessons Learned

- Think - think Christianly - be theologically thoughtful
- Children and Youth - can do more, understand more than we often give them credit for...
- Christianity is not just an idea - it is a way of living..."FOLLOW"
- Live as community - fellowship, caring, seeking Christ in other person, learning from and serving others
- That person is Jesus - treat them as such.



# Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Life...People are not Means to an End





