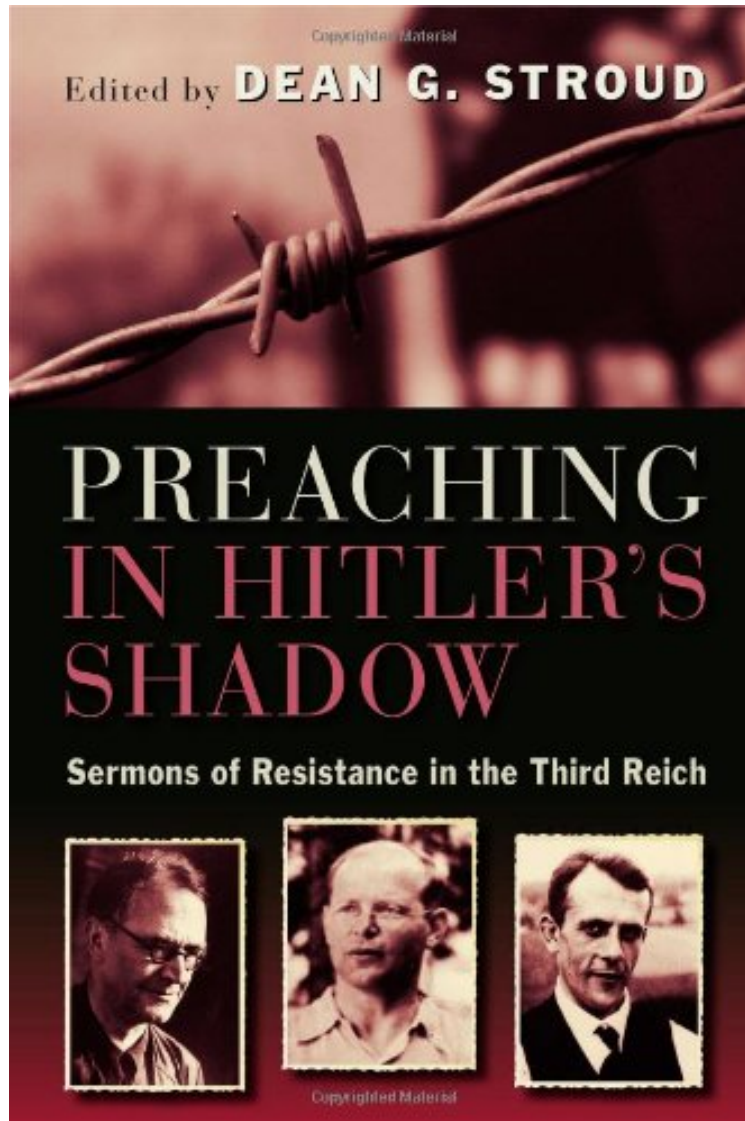


(Pdf free) Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich

Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich

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From Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Co. : Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Were all Germans silent?By Husband of CustomerGenerally we in N. America have the tendency to think that the disciples of Jesus in Germany did not pay close attention to what was

expected of them. However, this book clearly indicates that there were a significant number of pastors and others who made a faithful witness in resisting the follies of Adolf Hitler. The sermons indicated that there were more faithful followers than many of us thought. The witness of the Cross was not forgotten in that convoluted time of betrayed loyalties. The basic question then and now is, "What makes a neighbor?" The cost of hearing and doing the truth is beyond our self-interest. Our need is greater than private greed. The 9 indictments are like the tolling of a bell. -- Donald D. Kaufman
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. UnfortunateBy JAI
If you're reading this with the hope of gaining some critical insight into Christianity from the author himself, you're out of luck. Stroud clearly did his homework in terms of research - his failure of analysis makes one star generous. While you'll get a few allusions to the failure of Christians and Christianity during WWII, the greater half of the first third of the book is comprised of meek, complacent, sorry-sounding defenses of how Christianity and Christians did not fail. The author's incessant examples of "some" courageous souls is maddening. A few of the anecdotes Stroud relays, as well as the sermons of the pastors themselves, are this work's only saving grace - his discussions of the dangers of government use of Christianity, for example, are a harrowing cautionary tale in times when demagogic, tyrannical rulers on all levels, local and national, foreign and domestic.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Timely ReminderBy J. Johnson
Considering the situation American churches are about to find themselves in, this is a very timely book that every pastor should read. The first half of the book is Stroud's description of the cultural situation and an explanation of what at least some of the pastors were doing to resist the tyrannical encroachment of National Socialism. With this brief historical synopsis the reader is better prepared to understand the radical nature of the sermons presented in the second half of the book. Stroud's explanatory notes within each sermon help the reader understand the significance of the words chosen and spoken by the various pastors. The selection of pastors ranges from recognized theologians to unknown rural pastors all of whom stood firmly on God's Word in the face of overwhelming opposition and spiritual lethargy. It is my opinion that these very same messages should be heard in American pulpits today.

What did German preachers opposed to Hitler say in their Sunday sermons? When the truth of Christ could cost a pastor his life, what words encouraged and challenged him and his congregation? This book answers those questions. *Preaching in Hitler's Shadow* begins with a fascinating look at Christian life inside the Third Reich, giving readers a real sense of the danger that pastors faced every time they went into the pulpit. Dean Stroud pays special attention to the role that language played in the battle over the German soul, pointing out the use of Christian language in opposition to Nazi rhetoric. The second part of the book presents thirteen well-translated sermons by various select preachers, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Rudolf Bultmann, and others not as well known but no less courageous. A running commentary offers cultural and historical insights, and each sermon is preceded by a short biography of the preacher.

Expositor "Powerful and convicting. . . . Stroud is to be commended." *Modern Believing* "The firm strength of the enterprise lies in the sermons themselves and Stroud has done something of great worth in giving them to us." *Currents in Theology Mission* "Impressive. . . . Readers will not only find powerful examples of gospel proclamation, but will see how the sermon may faithfully confront systems of oppression in the political and social realm." Allan Boesak -- author of *Dare We Speak of Hope? Searching for a Language of Life in Faith and Politics* "After his thorough and superb presentation of the historical context, Dean Stroud provides captivating examples of biblical preaching and prophetic witness by pastors of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany. He leaves no doubt about the life-threatening crisis the Nazis presented to Germany and the church. Neither is there any doubt about the response of the prophets here brought to life. One is simply stunned by the courage of prophetic faithfulness and by the sheer power of the Word preached in persistent obedience and at enormous risk. Here are voices that cannot be stilled. . . . *Preaching in Hitler's Shadow* is simply a towering book. It will inform, provoke, unsettle, move, and inspire." John Wilson -- editor of *Books Culture* "In these sermons we see (and hear) pastors staying true to their calling, despite the pressures to remain silent or -- far worse -- to praise evil. Dean Stroud, who has gathered these sermons and who situates them for us, is attentive to moral complexity, as is clear in the range of responses represented in the sermons and the diverse fates of the pastors who preached them. At once sobering and inspiring, this book is a treasure." George Hunsinger -- editor of *Torture Is a Moral Issue* "In this book we see what it is like to proclaim the gospel courageously in the midst of dire political circumstances. The idea that preaching must always avoid being political is exposed for the falsehood that it is. This is a sobering and a heartening book." Gregory Paul Wegner -- author of *Anti-Semitism and Schooling under the Third Reich* "Stroud's book is a reminder that historians attempting to understand the legacy of Protestantism under the Third Reich would do well to seriously examine the theological underpinnings of these sermons of resistance." *Library Journal* (STARRED review) "Of books relating to the Third Reich there is no end. This book is not typical of the genre; it celebrates the quiet heroism of 11 preachers. . . . The superb editing and introduction by former Presbyterian pastor Stroud set the sermons in context and tell us that some of these brave men died for their convictions. . . . An immense contribution to the literature of Christian witness and should be read by all pastors and serious historians of Christianity." *Christian Century* "In the Hitler era, a small number of German pastors associated

with the Confessing Church dared to speak against Nazi rule. Some lost their lives for doing so. ... Stroud describes the political situation and the prevailing religious attitudes that these pastors courageously engaged. The sermons show the power of good theology, biblical exposition, and practical application."Christianity Today "While many German churches caved under Nazi pressure, compromising their doctrines and moral integrity, others courageously held firm. This volume examines sermons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, and other preachers who refused to be intimidated into silence."Ecumenism "This look at Christian life inside the Third Reich gives readers a real sense of the danger that preachers opposed to Hitler faced every time they went into the pulpit. ... A running commentary offers cultural and historical insights and each sermon is preceded by a short biography of the preacher."Church Times "Dean Stroud provides a masterly introduction to the historical background to this selection of 12 sermons, illustrative of the Christian counter-attack on the key fascist heresies. ... Each one is prefaced by a short biographical note, and given its context in the life of the Church."Theological Book "Offers a unique look at Christian opposition to Hitler through the medium of sermons that were `preached in Hitler's shadow.' ... Helpful for students, pastors, and anyone seeking a concise introduction to the so-called Church Struggle in Nazi Germany and the ambiguous legacy of Christian resistance."Theology Today "Preaching in Hitler's Shadow will appeal to pastors, students, and scholars interested in the history of the Confessing Church as well as anyone interested in prophetic and doctrinal preaching."