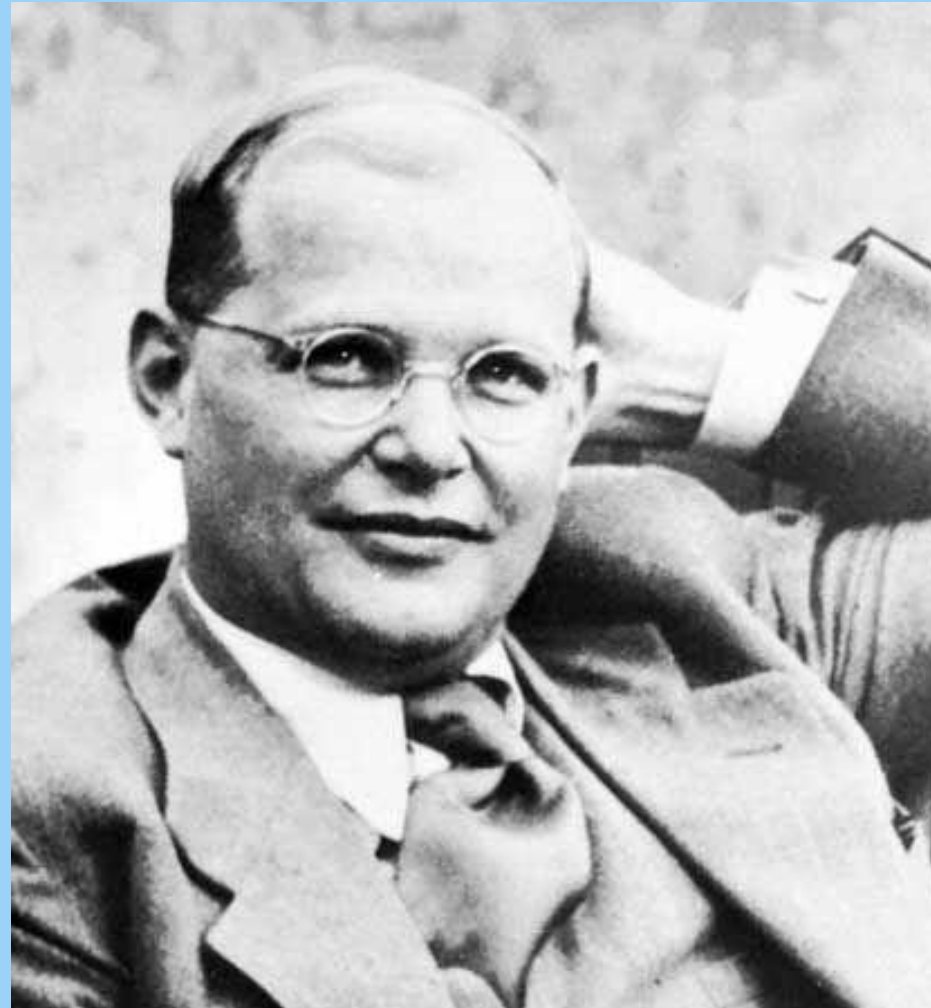


Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(February 4, 1906 – April 9, 1945)



Timeline

February 4, 1906, born, with twin sister, Sabine, in Breslau, Germany, 2 of 8 of Karl Bonhoeffer and Paula (von Hase) Bonhoeffer

1912, family moves to Berlin

1919, announces he will become a theologian

Mar. 15, 1921, confirmed at Grunewald Church, Berlin; grows up comfortably bourgeois

1927, doctorate at Univ. of Berlin, at age 21

1928, vicar of German Lutheran ch. in Barcelona

1930-1931, postgraduate year at Union

Theological Seminary (NYC)(including work at Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem)

1931, Youth Sec. of World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches

Aug. 1931, lecturer in theology at U. of Berlin

Nov. 1931, ordained, St. Matthias Church, Berlin

Jan.30, 1933, Adolf Hitler, Reich Chancellor

Feb. 1, 1933, Bonhoeffer's radio talk "*Changes in the Concept of the Leader Principle*" is cut off air before completion

1933, gives final lecture courses at Berlin

Sept.7, 1933, collaborates with Martin Niemoeller to organize Pastors' Emergency League, 2000

Lutheran pastors opposed to the control of state church by Nazis; pastor of German Evang. Church, Sydenham, & Ref. Church of St. Paul in London

May 1934, Confessing Church organizes, Barmen, Germany

1935, assumes leadership of the Confessing Church's clandestine seminary at Zingst by the Baltic Sea, relocated later to Finkenwalde (Pomerania)

Aug. 15, 1936, preaches at Olympic Village, after which U.of Berlin faculty authorization withdrawn

Timeline (continued)

Oct. 1937, Gestapo closes Finckenwalde Sem.

1938, part of Abwehr resistance circle (courier and diplomat to the British government)

1940--1943, between activities for resistance, works *Ethics* at Ettal (Benedictine monastery)

Jan. 17, 1943, engaged, Maria von Wedemeyer

1943, tries to help Jews escaping to Switzerland

April 5, 1943, arrested and imprisoned

July 20, 1944, failed Hitler assassination attempt

Oct. 8, 1944, transferred to cellar of Gestapo prison in Prinz Albrecht Strasse

Feb. 5, 1945, transferred to Buchenwald

April 3-8, 1945, moved to Regensburg, Schonborg, and eventually Flossenburg

April 9, 1945, executed by hanging, on Himmler's orders; unknown burial place

April 30, 1945, Hitler commits suicide in Führerbunker, beneath Reich Chancellery buildings in Berlin,

July 27, 1945, memorial services for Bonhoeffer held at Holy Trinity Church, London, encouraged by Bishop of Chichester

April 9, 1946, memorial service held in Berlin; memorial in Dorotheenstadt cemetery, Berlin

1951, first German edition of prison letters published as *Widerstand und Ergebung* (*Resistance and Submission*)

1953, first English edition of prison letters published as *Prisoner for God* and later as *Letters and Papers from Prison*

1973, International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section founded

2015, The Bonhoeffer Center website begins



*Paula and Karl Bonhoeffer
-Dietrich's parents-1945*



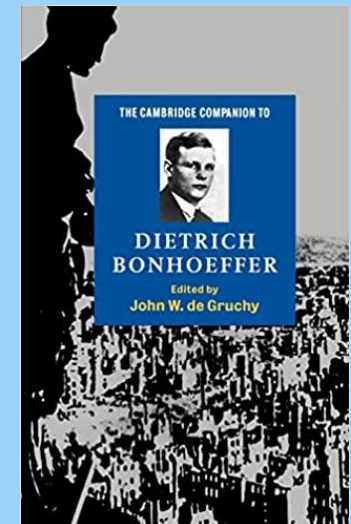
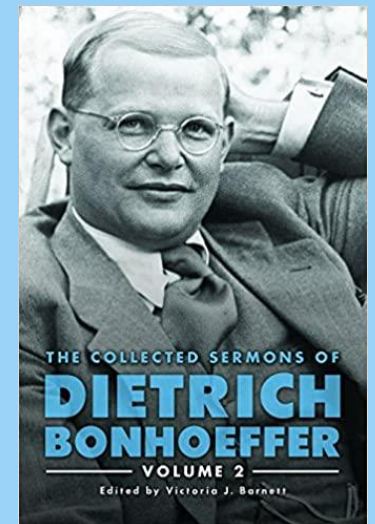
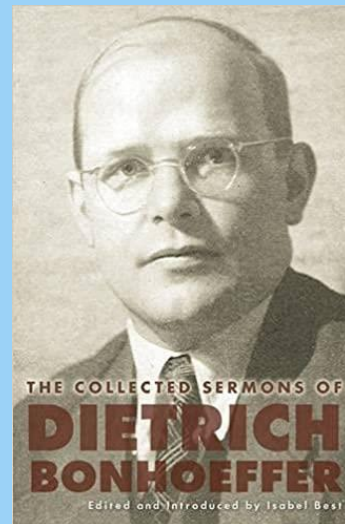
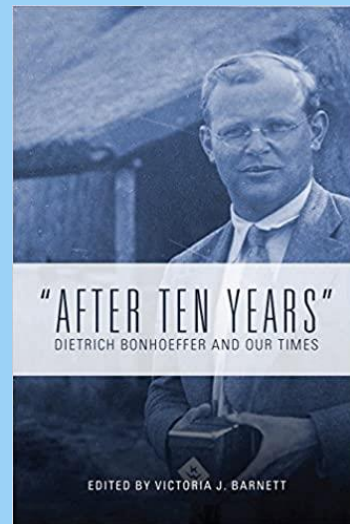
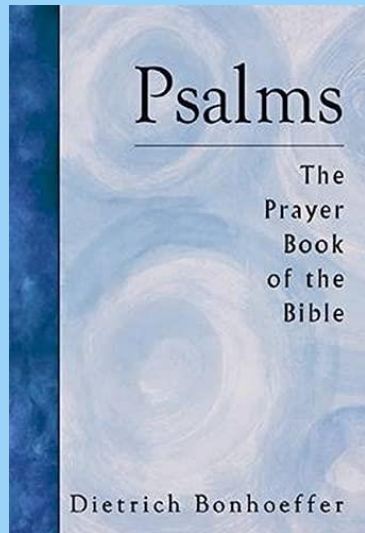
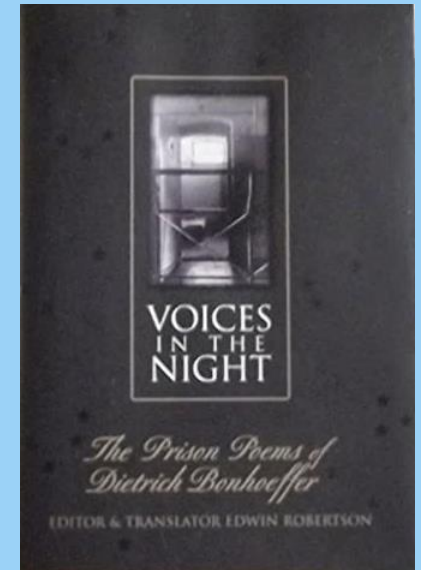
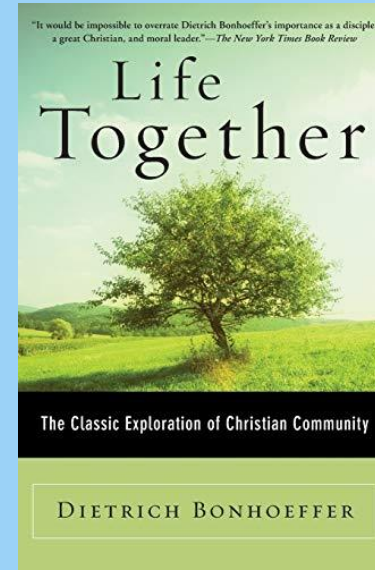
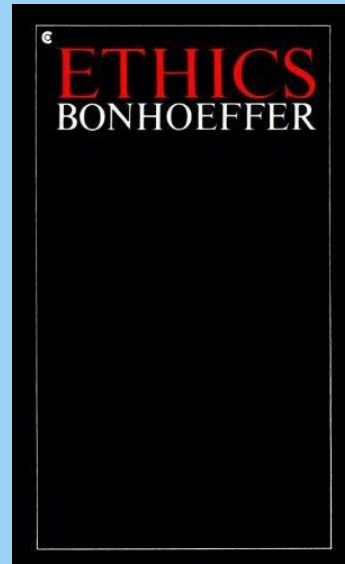
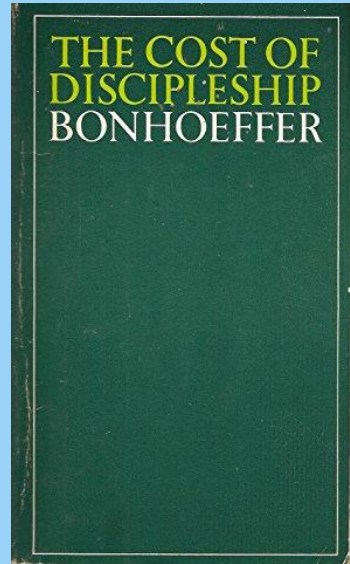
*The young Bonhoeffer
with other students.*



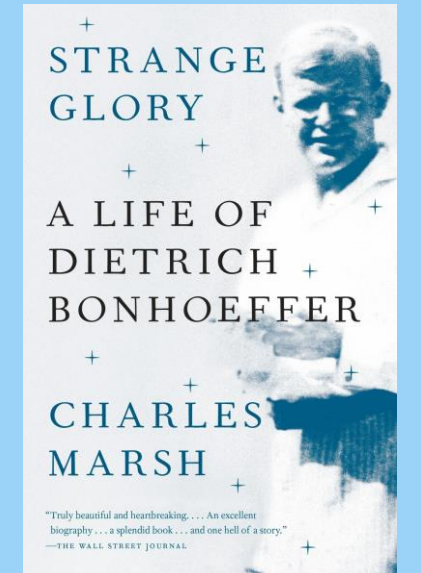
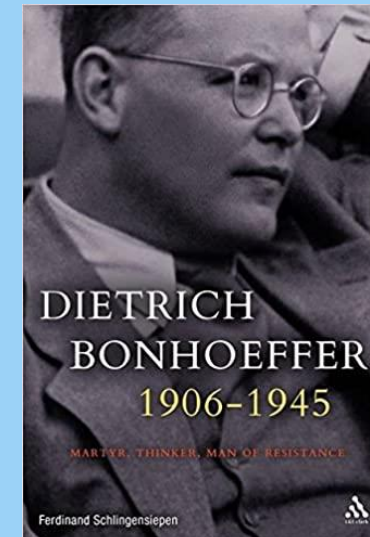
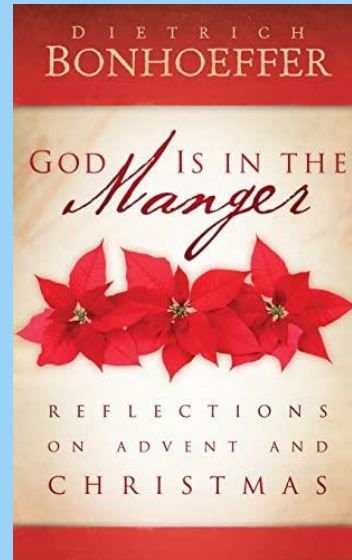
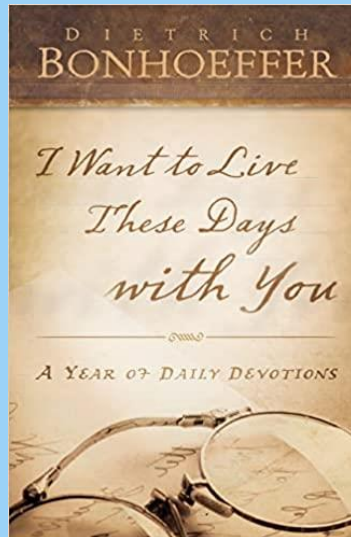
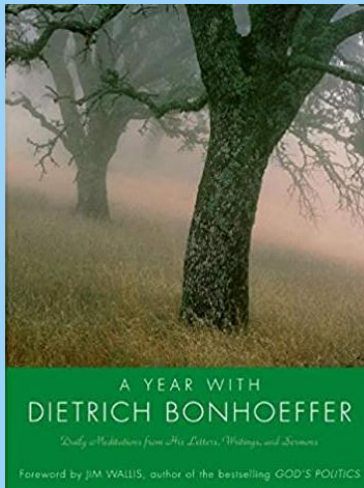
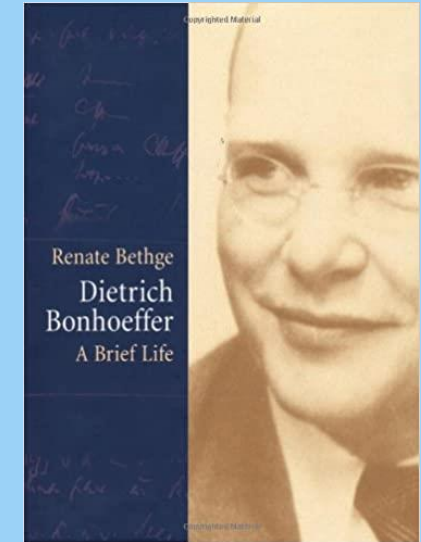
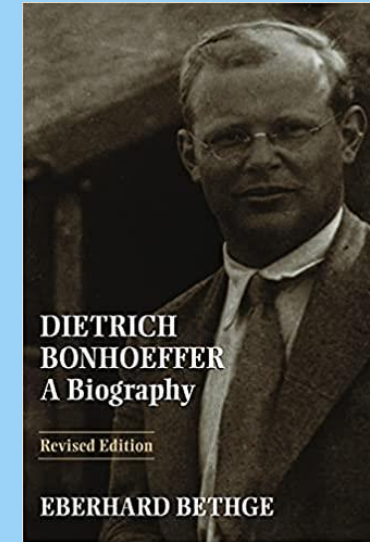
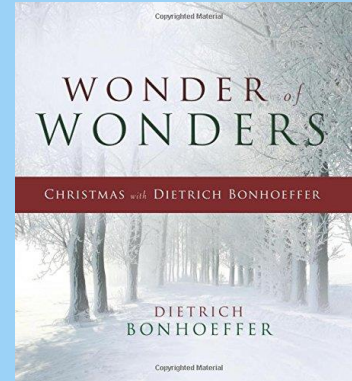
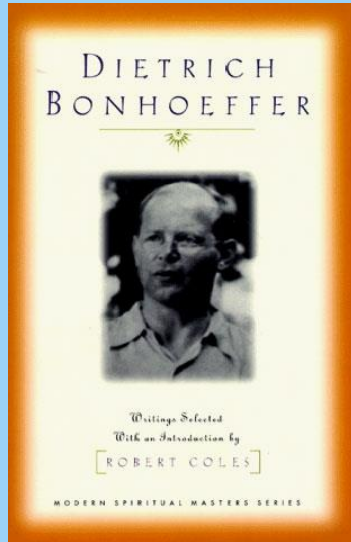
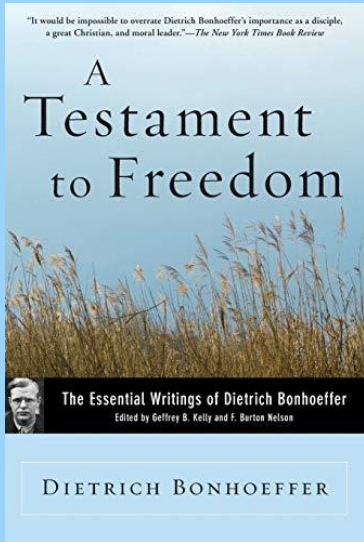
Bonhoeffer in NYC



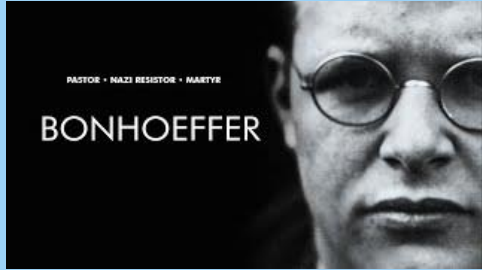
Where to start?



Where to start -- continued



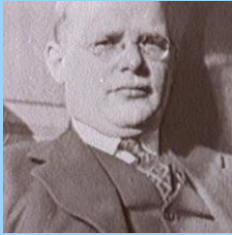
Internet Resources



Bonhoeffer
(Journey Films -- Martin Doblmeier,
Klaus Maria Brandauer, Adele Schmidt)
(2003) (1:32:07) (FREE)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_9vqxIjH6Ok



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer:
Memories and Perspectives**
(Trinity Films)
(2003) (1:31:49) (FREE)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfygwFwUsIc>



Dietrich Bonhoeffer
(Religion & Ethics Weekly -- PBS)
(Feb. 3, 2006) (00:03:41) (FREE)
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2006/02/03/february-3-2006-dietrich-bonhoeffer/12811/>



Bonhoeffer 1945
(TGA Productions)
(2020) (1:26:00) (R/B \$3.99/\$8.99)
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/bonhoeffer1945movie>



Bonhoeffer: Agent Of Grace
(Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Norflicks
Productions of Canada, Oregon Public
Broadcasting and Wisconsin Public Television)
(2000) (1:25:38) (FREE)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm0OvpomMPA>



Charles Marsh on Dietrich Bonhoeffer
(PBS)
(2015) (00:08:14) (FREE)
<https://www.pbs.org/video/religion-and-ethics-newsweekly-charles-marsh-dietrich-bonhoeffer/>

Internet Resources ... continued

“Claims on Bonhoeffer: The misuse of a theologian”

By Karen V. Guth

Christian Century (magazine) May 13, 2015

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-05/claims-bonhoeffer>

THE BONHOEFFER CENTER

<https://thebonhoeffercenter.org/>

The International Bonhoeffer Society (on Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/thebonhoeffercenter>

The Bonhoeffer Project

<https://thebonhoefferproject.com/weeklycolumn/bonhoefferinprison>



Video Clip

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(Religion & Ethics Weekly -- PBS)

(Feb. 3, 2006) (3:41)

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2006/02/03/february-3-2006-dietrich-bonhoeffer/12811/>



Bonhoeffer's Catchphrases: A Legacy to Live By

“A world come of age” – his description of the world's complexities, including radical evil

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die” – how he described the call of faith and the risk of conversion, a death to old ways of living life (i.e. ignoring the needs of neighbors & Jesus' example as premier guidance for action

“Cheap Grace” – what Bonhoeffer warned against, urging instead an embrace of **“Costly Discipleship”**

“The Psalms are Jesus' Prayerbook” – what he taught “underground seminary” students and untold readers of his book on the Psalms

Bonhoeffer on Praying the Psalms



- **The Psalms reflect life** in all of its fullness and complexities, all of its exhilarating joys and disappointing defeats.
- The Psalms are important because **Jesus prayed them.**
- The Psalms are to be prayed so **we can begin to understand how to pray in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Bonhoeffer on Prayer



- Prayer is ultimately personal, always tinged with intimate connections, the way a child's life is bound to a parent.
- Prayer connects us within the human community.
- For Christians, prayer is made possible by Jesus Christ (Cf. Rom. 8:26)
- Jesus's instructions and exemplary prayer for his first disciples show subsequent followers how to pray.
- Prayer is a prime source for enduring.
- By steeping oneself in prayer and meditation one more fully becomes a bearer of God's Word.

Bonhoeffer's Challenging Example

- Engaged in an interior struggle

"WHO AM I?"

....Who am I? This or the other?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?

*Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
and before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?*

*Or is something within me still like a beaten army,
fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?*

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine?

Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine.



Bonhoeffer's Challenging Example

... continued

- **“Good and Evil” are not the primary enemies of living responsibly and wisely; the primary enemy is “Folly.”**



“Neither protests nor force can touch it; reasoning is no use; facts that contradict personal prejudices can simply be disbelieved — indeed, the fool can counter by criticizing them, and if they are undeniable, they can just be pushed aside as trivial exceptions.

So the fool, as distinct from the scoundrel, is completely self-satisfied....

One feels...when talking to him, that one is dealing, not with the man himself, but with slogans, catchwords, and the like, which have taken hold of him. He is under a spell...”

Bonhoeffer's Challenging Example

... continued



- **Resistance to Hitler & the Nazis:** *Theological, Ecclesial, Political, Existential*
- **Bonhoeffer has been used, misused, and abused**
 - e.g. *Pat Robertson (re: Chavez assassination), Paul Hill (bombing abortion clinic)*
- **Bonhoeffer's "big (heroic) life" compared to ours -- .**
 - (Do we really have to do something "big" to engage in righteous morality?)*
- **The "What If's" Abound**

*What if he hadn't been murdered and martyred? What if he had lived and shown the world a new way? **The only real question we actually can answer:** What if we lived differently because of what we have learned from his example?*



TIME's YOURS

Q & A

Discussion

Musings

