

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xv
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xix
1. "I Belong to Basel": Ancestors and Childhood, 1886–1904	1
A Guildmaster, Pastors, and Scholars: Barth's Ancestors	1
A Strict Love for Truth and Christian Discipline: His Parents	8
"A Great Great Joy": Childhood and Youth	12
2. "This Obscure Desire toward a Better Understanding": Studies, 1904–9	23
The Decision to Study Theology	23
Student in Bern	24
Wearing the Colors and Noncombative: In the Zofingia Association	26
"Very Diligent and Quite Capable": Student in Berlin	28
Once More in Bern and then Tübingen	32
In Marburg at last	35
His Work for <i>Die Christliche Welt</i>	37
3. "Stumbling up the Steps to Calvin's Pulpit": Geneva, 1909–11	48
Vicar in Geneva	48
Quite Demanding: The First Confirmation Instruction	50
Theologian in the Congregation	52
"In Such a Dreadfully Pious Environment"	53
A Daughter from a Good Home: The Engagement to Nelly Hoffmann	55
Farewell to Geneva	56
4. "The Red Pastor": Safenwil, 1911–21	61
"This System of Employment Must Fall": Workers and Socialists	62
A Theological Friendship: Eduard Thurneysen	66
"The World . . . without Gods": The First World War	68
"An Open House": Family Life	73
5. "A Book for Those Who Were Also Concerned": The First <i>Epistle to the Romans</i> , 1919	84
Human Religion and the Divine Word	84
"Like a Bomb on the Playground of the Theologians"	90
"Without Windows to the Kingdom of Heaven": The Tambach Lecture	91
6. "To Always Work Somewhat Faster": Göttingen, 1921–5	100
From Swiss Pastor to German Professor	100

11. “We Who Can Still Speak”: Basel, 1935–45	268
Life Goes On: Professor in Basel	268
International Honors and Lack of Appreciation	270
Battle for the Confessing Church	272
Anti-Appeasement: The Call to the Czechs to Resist	277
The Political Responsibility of a Christian	280
Church Struggle and Refugee Aid	283
Ecumenical Silence at the Onset of the War	286
Family Intrigues and Grief	288
A Call for Military Resistance, and Swiss Censorship	290
A Friend of the Germans, Nonetheless	299
12. “In Political Respects a Dubious Will-o’-the-Wisp”: Basel, 1945–62	314
War’s End and the Declaration of Guilt	314
Back to Bonn and, Once Again, State and Church Issues	320
“God’s Beloved Eastern Zone”: Against Anti-Communism	324
A Pacifist after All? Protest against Rearmament and Nuclear Weapons	330
Yes to Ecumenism, but without the Catholics	336
The Master with the Crumpled Tie	341
The Discovery of Optimism in Prison	344
Courage, Tempo, Purity, Peace: Confession to Mozart	346
Children, Grandchildren, and the Rejection of His Desired Successor	347
13. “The White Whale”: <i>Church Dogmatics</i>	362
“A Conceptual Helix”: Barth’s Monumental Work	362
The Threefold Form of the Word of God	364
God’s Three Modes of Being	366
“God Is” Means “God Loves”	368
Whom God Elects	369
What God Commands	371
Why God Wants the Creation	372
Nothingness and the Shadow Sides of Creation	373
The Threefold Office of Christ and the Three Forms of Sin	375
The Light Shines Where It Wishes	376
The Baptism of Water and of the Spirit	377
14. “All Things Considered, a Little Tired”: The Final Years, Basel, 1962–8	383
“Fantastic”: A Calvinist in the United States	383
“Rules for Older People in Relation to Younger”	387
“As If Deeply Veiled”: Charlotte von Kirschbaum Must Move Out	390
“Separated Brothers”: In Conversation with Rome	394

A Late Friendship with Carl Zuckmayer	397
The Uncompleted Mammoth Work	399
At the End of His Life Journey	400
<i>Epilogue</i>	409
<i>Chronology</i>	413
<i>Bibliography</i>	417
<i>Index</i>	433