

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 14 THE HIDDEN RIGHTEOUSNESS

CHAPTER 15 THE HIDDENNESS OF PRAYER

CHAPTER 16 THE HIDDENNESS OF THE DEVOUT LIFE

CHAPTER 17 THE SIMPLICITY OF THE CAREFREE LIFE

Note: The two different set of page numbers after each question refer first to the green Collier Books edition and then second to the vanilla Touchstone Books edition.

Notes on the Chapters:

On p. 190/171 is the Latin phrase *passio activa* which means “active suffering,” in contrast to suffering that is passive, or “*passiva*.” On p.194/175 is a quote from Gerhard Tersteegen, 18th century religious writer. On p. 200/180 is a quote from (I think!) Claudius of Turin, 9th century Catholic bishop.

Ch. 14

1. What is the paradox of Christian visibility? How is discipleship hidden yet visible? (p. 175/p. 157-158)
2. From whom do we hide our righteousness? (p. 176/p. 158)

Ch. 15

3. What makes prayer possible in the first place? (pp. 180/p. 162)
4. Why does Bonhoeffer say prayer has no “direct effect on the world”? (p. 181/p. 163)
5. How do we avoid watching ourselves in prayer? (pp. 182-183/p. 164)

Ch. 16

6. What is the purpose of asceticism? (p. 188/p. 169)
7. How do we sometimes make excuses for avoiding asceticism? (p. 189/p. 170)
8. What is the problem with seeing asceticism solely in terms of imitating Christ? (pp. 190-191/p. 171)

Ch. 17

9. Bonhoeffer came from privilege. How can he say what he says about the idolatry of possessions? (pp. 192-194/ pp. 173-175)
10. Why is being “carefree” not a philosophy of life or a moral law? (pp. 198-199/pp. 178-179)