

faith' that murder was implicitly permitted by the Fifth Commandment, or that Christ did not rise from the dead. If so, then what makes it different in kind from our logic? And in any case, how are we to find out *what* laws it contains?

On the whole, the book is easy to read, though there is the occasional re-sounding tautology—for example: 'The present, fruit of the past, is pregnant with a future which in its turn will become present and then past'. Père Rondet's style seems to have embarrassed the translator, so that in places the English version obscures the sense of the original more effectively than it masks its idiom.

ANTHONY KENNY

*DELIVERANCE TO THE CAPTIVES*, by Karl Barth; translated by Marguerite Wieser; S.C.M., 12s. 6d.

Karl Barth is said by many to be the greatest theologian of this age, but what is certain is that none can really claim the title of theologian unless he has considered and wrestled with the searching questions which Barth has been putting to Christianity for the last forty years.

But Karl Barth is more than this. In the book before us he is seen as a preacher, and not just preacher in the sense of lecturer or reader of learned papers, but as a pastoral preacher, and one preaching to an audience of critical and sceptical nature. The short sermons contained in this book were in fact preached to the prisoners in the gaol at Basel.

Amongst many other qualities they have one which strikes the reader, and certainly should strike the would-be preacher, as outstanding and of fundamental importance. This is that all his moral teaching springs from and depends upon a theological and doctrinal presentation. What he is out above all to show is the great and mysterious fact that God has spoken to us in his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and that it is through him that we are saved. And although perhaps one must say that one feels his theological position making him give insufficient weight and significance to human nature as such, nevertheless it is because of their firm theological rooting that his moral 'dos' and 'don'ts' go home, as they went home so successfully to that original and critical audience.

Not only will this book give a picture of a great mind engaged—and yes, perhaps even fulfilling itself—in true evangelism, but it could also be a great help to any wishing to devote their own lives in the same way.

GILES HIBBERT, O.P.

*READING THE WORD OF GOD*, by Lawrence Dannemiller, S.S.; Burns and Oates, 21s.

There is a most welcome increase lately in books on scripture by Catholic scholars, but they do not seem to have led to any significant increase in Bible