

I find it interesting that Niebuhr, also, recognizes the relevance and significance of 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, even if he hardly appeals to it as frequently as Bultmann does.

Thus he says, for instance, in a sermon on 1 Corinthians 3:11-15: "We build falsely on true foundations if we try to mediate the grace of the Christian faith through slogans and clichés or if we try to quiet anxious hearts through ~~sup~~icious appeals to special providence which is supposed to protect the faithful. For the gospel gives us no special securities or exemptions from the frailties of men and the tragedies of life. We are expected to live life fully but also to be detached from life so that we have everything as if we had it not" (*Essays in Applied Christianity*: 136).

9 July 2003