Contents

Preface xi

Part 1. Eschatology and Ethics 3
Introduction 4
What Can I Hope For? What Can I Do? Free Action 3
What Must I Fear? What Should I Do? Necessary Action 4
Praying and Watching 6
Waiting and Hastening 6

1. Apocalyptic Eschatology 9
The Lutheran Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms 9
The Apocalyptic Catechon 13
Armageddon 16

2. Christological Eschatology 19
Calvinist Kingdom-of-God Theology 19
Karl Barth’s Christological Eschatology 20
Political Parables of the Kingdom of God 21
Theocratic Democracy 23

3. Separatist Eschatology 25
An Interim Reflection: Did Jesus Teach a Special Ethics? Is There Such a Thing as a Christian Ethics? 25
Who Were the Anabaptists? 27
What Did the Anabaptists Believe? 28
How Did the Anabaptists Live? 29
The Post-Liberal Separation between “Church” and “World”: Stanley Hauerwas 30

4. Transformative Eschatology 35
First Orientations 35
Eschatological Christology 37
Transformative Ethics 39
# Contents

## Part 2. An Ethics of Life

5. A Culture of Life  
   - Terror of Death  
   - The Gospel of Life  
   - Love for Life  

6. Medical Ethics  
   - Some Benchmarks for a Judgment  
   - The Birth of Life  
   - The Strength to Live in Health and Sickness  
   - The Strength to Live in Dying and in Death  
   - The Resurrection of the Body?  

## Part 3. Earth Ethics

7. In the Space of the Earth, What Is the Earth?  
   - The Gaia Theory  
   - Biblical Perspectives  
   - “Brothers, Remain True to the Earth”  

8. The Time of the Earth  
   - The Doctrine of Creation and the Theory of Evolution  
   - Creation in the Beginning  
   - The Continuing Creation Process  
   - Evolution and Emergence  
   - The Struggle for Existence or Cooperation in Existence?  
   - The Theory of Evolution and Belief in Progress  
   - The New Earth on Which Righteousness Dwells  

9. Ecology  
   - Ecological Sciences  
   - The Ecological Crisis  
   - Ecological Theology and Spirituality  
   - Ecological Ethics  
   - Human Rights and the Rights of Nature  

10. Earth Ethics  
    - Benchmarks for Forming a Judgment  
    - An Alternative Lifestyle  
    - A Culture of Solidarity
Contents vii

Part 4. Ethics of Just Peace

11. Criteria for Forming a Judgment 165
   Righteousness, Justice, and Equality 165
   The Deficits of Politics in the Face of Global Problems 165
   Are Ethics Always Too Late on the Scene? 166
   Is Trust the Substance of Democratic Politics? 166

12. Divine and Human Righteousness and Justice 169
   "Tit for Tat" Religion 169
   The Link between Acts and Consequences, and Karma 172
   The Scales of Justice: Justitia Distributiva 174
   The Sun of Righteousness: Justitia Justificans 177
   Creating Justice in the World of Victims and Perpetrators 178
   Righteousness and Right 184

13. Dragon Slaying and Peacemaking in Christianity 189
   Power and Violence 189
   The Angel of Peace and the Dragon Slayer 190
   Sacrum Imperium—The Sacred Rule 191
   What in the Long Run Was the Effect of the Christianization of Politics? 193
   Just Power: The Monopoly of Force and the Right of Resistance 194
   The Doctrine of “Just War” 196
   Under the Conditions of Nuclear Weapons? 197
   “Creating Peace without Weapons” 199
   Creative Love of Enemies 201
   Christian Dual Strategy for a Just Peace 204

   Lenin: Trust Is Good—Control Is Better 207
   Trust Creates Freedom 210
   Truth Creates Trust 212
   Ways from Control to Trust 213

15. The Righteousness of God and Human and Civil Rights 217
   The Discovery of Human Rights 217
   The Integration of Individual and Social Human Rights 219
The Integration of Economic Human Rights and the Ecological Rights of Nature 221
Human Rights: International, Transnational, or Subsidiary? 223
Human Rights and the Righteousness of God 225

Part 5. Joy in God: Aesthetic Counterpoints
16. Sabbath—The Feast of Creation 231
17. The Jubilation of Christ’s Resurrection 235
18. “And Peace in the Midst of Strife” 238

Notes 240
Index 259