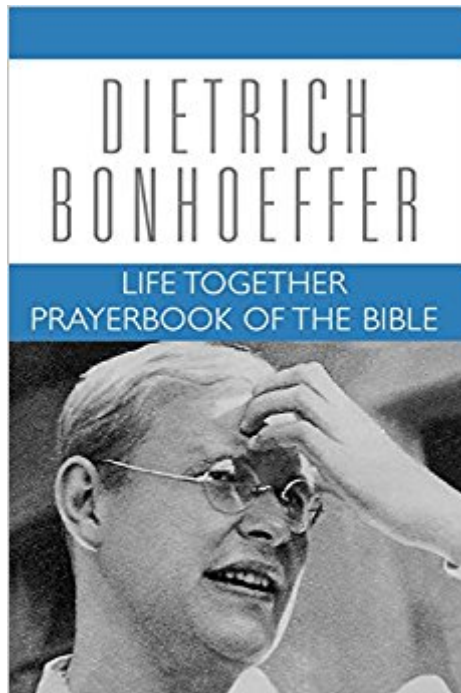


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Life Together And Prayerbook Of The Bible (Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Vol. 5)



Synopsis

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most influential Christian martyrs in history, bequeathed to humanity a legacy of theological creativity and spirituality that continues to intrigue people from a variety of backgrounds. Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, a sixteen volume series, offers a fresh, critical translation of Bonhoeffer's writings, with introductions, annotations, and interpretations. The stimulus for the writing of Life Together was the closing of the preacher's seminary at Finkenwalde. The treatise contains Bonhoeffer's thoughts about the nature of Christian community based on the common life that he and his seminarians experienced at the seminary and in the "Brother's House" there.

Bonhoeffer completed the writing of Life Together in 1938. Prayerbook of the Bible is a classic of Christian spirituality. In this theological interpretation of the Psalms, Bonhoeffer describes the moods of an individual's relationship with God and also the turns of love and heartbreak, of joy and sorrow, that are themselves the Christian community's path to God.

Book Information

Paperback: 234 pages

Publisher: Augsburg Fortress Publishers (December 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0800683250

ISBN-13: 978-0800683252

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #127,058 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Prayerbooks](#) #320 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament](#) #478 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Old Testament](#)

Customer Reviews

Life Together, Volume 5, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Translated by Daniel W. Bloesch and James H. Burtness, Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly (Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 1996) Also available as an inexpensive paperback from HarperOne. Dietrich Bonhoeffer may be as close as we Lutherans get to declaring a saint. He is the most notable Lutheran theologian of the 20th century, and he may be the only Lutheran theologian whose name, aside from Martin Luther himself, whom Lutheran lay congregants recognize. But I suspect few Lutherans know anything about his works beyond his

Letters and Papers from Prison. Up to a short time ago, I was familiar with only three other works, all available in popular paperbacks. I have since discovered that Bonhoeffer's works in English fill 16 volumes. My interest here lies with *Life Together*, as an interesting contrast to *The Rule of St. Benedict*. Bonhoeffer's primary experience was with the community of Lutheran seminarians at the 'underground' Confessing Church's Finkenwalde Seminary in 1935--1937, where Bonhoeffer was a professor. *St. Benedict's* on Monte Cassino was founded sometime shortly before 543 CE. The only real similarity is that both communities were founded in times of extreme civil stress, and both communities may have been a refuge from that stress. The difference is that Benedict's stress came largely from brigands. He had the support of his church and state, such as it was, behind him. Bonhoeffer did not have the support of Germany's 45 million Protestants or even of his own Lutheran church. His opponent was the most ruthlessly evil state in modern history. Bonhoeffer became a founding member of the 'Confessing Church', formed to oppose Nazification of the churches.

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