

NIEMOELLER SAYS GOD, NOT MAN, BEAT HITLER

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NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 24—Not man, but God won the victory over Hitler, the Rev. Dr. Martin Niemoeller declared tonight before a capacity congregation of 2,000 persons at the First Presbyterian Church. His topic was "The Gospel Empowered Through Persecution."

Dr. Niemoeller said the conflict in Germany was between the will of God and the will of man, that Hitler and Christ became opponents and the church was "only a means for God to carry on the fight."

Illustrating his contention that the church thrived on persecution, the Lutheran clergyman said Hitler's seizure of the government, finances and administration of the church awakened many churches in Germany to "a new and fresh realization that the voice of Christ was the voice that must be listened to."

Writing "as president of the American Jewish Congress and an American minister of religion," Dr. Stephen S. Wise sent a message last night to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America deploring that organization's invitation to Pastor Martin Niemoeller to conduct a lecture tour in this country.

"I am bound to declare that Niemoeller has not so borne himself throughout the unspeakable Hitler years as to merit the respect or confidence of the Christian peoples of America," Dr. Wise said. "When Hitler launched the movement destined to be the most disastrous in human history, the Reverend Niemoeller became his enthusiastic supporter. Not until 1937 did he find his tongue and then only with respect to the threatened regimentation of the Christian church or churches of Germany. He paid the penalty of his opposition to church regimentation by being sent to a concentration camp where he suffered no more than other victims and far less than thousands of Jewish residents of concentration camps who, unlike Niemoeller, never emerged alive.

"I must frankly state we hold him unworthy of the attention of the council or indeed any group of American Christians."