

Wilson's Bookmarks

From John Wilson,
editor of *Books & Culture*.

SAVING KARL BARTH

D. STEPHEN LONG (FORTRESS PRESS) ★

One unsatisfying aspect of most narrative theology is its failure to embody the distinctive virtues of narrative. By contrast, Long's account of the long "theological friendship" between Barth and Hans Urs von Balthasar—*not* a work of "narrative theology"—has the feel of a compulsively readable novel. I can't remember when I last read a book of theology like this. The issues at stake—fundamentally, the rift between Protestantism and Catholicism—are as timely today as they were during the decades of conversation between Barth and Balthasar.