To Thomas Kilgore, Jr.

24 June 1954
Boston, Mass.

Dear Brother Kilgore,

Just a note to again express my appreciation to you and your wife for the kind hospitality shown toward me while visiting your city and your church. The fellowship was indeed rich and the whole experience is one that I will cherish for years to come.

May I compliment you on the great work that you are doing at Friendship. I have just finished reading your annual report and after reading it, I can readily see the secret of your success. You have a superb organization and I assure you that many of your ideas will be helpful to me at Dexter.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Kilgore and to your lovely daughters, Jini and Lynnelda.

You have my prayers and best wishes for continual success in the great work that you are doing at Friendship. I remain

Cordially yours,
M. L. King, Jr.
MLK/csk

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 116.

“The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr”

[April 1953–June 1954]
[Boston, Mass.]

Expressing views similar to those in his earlier essays on Niebuhr, King presented this essay to the Dialectical Society after first giving a handwritten draft of the essay to DeWolf for his comments. King agrees with Niebuhr’s rejection of the perfectibility of human nature but asks, “Within such a view is there no hope for man?”

1. For the handwritten essay, see King, “Draft, The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr,” April 1953–June 1954, MLKP-MBU: Box 113. The transcription presented here is based on the most legible of the several extant copies of the typed essay. The title of the version is simply “Reinhold Niebuhr,” but David W. Bridell, a member of the Dialectical Society, reported that during King’s presentation he corrected it to “The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr” (David W. Bridell to King Center, 3 May 1982).