

AD FONTES

SPRING 2009



Fall of The Rebel Angels, 1562

Established Knowledge?

I hope this short letter finds you well. I would like to take just a couple of pages to update all of you who keep up with the ministry of Ad Fontes. Overall in Norman, it has been tough, slow going & dynamic if one can fit all of that into the same scenario. It seems that brilliance is no determination of virtue even though many today would like to equate having a large intellect with faith in Christ. It may sound absurd to some of you; however I hear it plenty among some of my colleagues. That is not all I have heard thus far in the semester. In early March, Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*, was invited to speak to the OU campus. Nearly 3,000 people showed up for his lecture. For those of you unfamiliar with him, he is perhaps one of the most well known popular atheists today and has gone to great lengths to force evolutionary thought into forms that I would say it was never meant for. For example, besides polarizing and bigoted comments towards all people of faith, Dawkins would go on to state how evolutionary ideas explain (or explain away) humanity's desire for meaning and purpose in life. Despite all of the details, what was most unusual was the emotionalism and display of blind affection that the crowd displayed for such a man. It was as though the entire room was under a spell as angry, irresponsible comments were made. Many hailed it as a transformative evening that would change their lives. I digress. I was reminded of Aristotle's comment, "Man is a believing animal. If society does not give him worthy things to believe in, he will believe unworthy things." The bright side to all of this was that I got to be smack dab in the middle of all of this and even got to enjoy the comforting presence of two of Ad Fontes' board members, Dr. Glenn Kreider and Cameron Gunnels. Besides fun and food, they also experienced a private tour along with Kelly and me of the History of Science collections. For three hours, we got to see, touch & read original works by Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton & Galileo, as well as ancient Bibles and commentaries. Some of the works dated as far back as 1,000 years and from such points in history as the Protestant Reformation. I was thankful for their friendship and happy for the experience we all had. All in all, I came away with the realization that there is indeed a struggle for what may be called "established knowledge." For some, like Dawkins, it is only what can be scientifically tested. For others, it is the Bible alone which provides all of the answers to life's enigmas. This is the polarization that results from angry commentators rather than lovers of wisdom. Einstein once stated, "Behind the efforts of the investigator there lurks a stronger, more mysterious drive: it is existence and reality that one wishes to comprehend. This wonder and awe are sustained by religion."



**"To those who believe, no proof is necessary.
To those who do not, no proof is possible"**

- Blaise Pascal



Καταφυσικός (According To Its Nature)

"The truth of God is that he is who he is and reveals who he is as he is. He is the ultimate truth who cannot be recognized or known by reference to anything else, who cannot be bracketed with any other reality, and who cannot be brought under the mastery of our comprehension, but who nevertheless makes himself accessible to us for he is not limited by our littleness or weakness." Too true. My life, my research & my ministry to others follow similar paths, though they are unique according to their own nature. Each week as a chaplain, I spend a few hours at two compa-

nies in which I get to hear some of the worst stories of pain, especially during such economic down turns. May it never be said that "it is only business." One need not hate money, nor should they love it, but we must respect it in our life. I also spend time after-school tutoring elementary kids who are behind in their reading. They are generally happy despite their difficulties and it is amazing to watch them grow throughout the semester as they learn to love life and learning. Lastly, my research of the writings of Michael Polanyi & T.F. Torrance takes me into areas of integration between science and religion causing me to become a better person, minister & educator.

For your edification, I want to leave with an anecdote about a hero of mine who has a place in both the history of medicine as well as in the history of the church. I leave you with Basil the Great. About 372, as Bishop of Caesarea, Basil established the earliest known hospital that remained continuously open to the public, not just for the wealthy. Earlier in his life, Basil received the best education of the day in natural history, medicine and mathematics, as well as theology. As in the case of his earlier relief work for the poor during the famine of 369, Basil saw no contradiction between the use of natural medicines and his faith in a God who heals, emphasizing rather the obligation of those with true religious faith to extend charity to the poor and needy. His love for the world at large says it all when he stated, "'Not only among the large animals is it possible to see His inscrutable wisdom, but even among the smallest it is possible to find no less marvels.... I do not admire the huge elephant more than the mouse, which is formidable to the elephant, or than the very fine sting of the scorpion, which the Craftsman hollowed out like a tube so that through it the poison is injected into those stung. One grass, even one blade of grass is sufficient to occupy all your intelligence completely in the consideration of the art which produced it."

Check out the new web site look & be on the alert for some possible summer ministry opps.!

His Servant & Your Friend,

Jason K. Brogden

Phil. 1:21

www.adfontes.us

Please remember the following in your prayers:

- For me to have sensitive courage to share the person of Christ with the adults I chaplain and kids I tutor.
- An employment opening for funding at OU.
- For Kelly & I to have discernment for future transitions with career & family.