



The center third of "Education" (1890), a stained glass window by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios, located in Linsley-Chittenden Hall at Yale University. It depicts Science (personified by Devotion, Labor, Truth, Research and Intuition) and Religion (personified by Purity, Faith, Hope, Reverence and Inspiration) in harmony, presided over by the central personification of "Light-Love-Life."

Ad Fontes Fall 2008



"Power is not revealed by striking hard or often, but by striking true."

As I start the Fall semester of my post-graduate training, I am reminded that the ability to translate theological truth into the warp and woof of life is imperative for me. This Fall I will make my first attempt to start a house fellowship that will meet once or twice a week at first to gather together fellow disciples for mutual encouragement. Since Kelly and I are so tied in to the lives of students and also close to OU campus, we will also endeavor to try some unique ministry experiments.

For example, Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*, will be coming to campus this next Spring as part of the year long celebration of the life of Charles Darwin and his writings. 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the Origin of Species and the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth. It is a nation-wide celebration taking place within academic and scientific communities. Dawkins, a rabid atheist and a polarizing figure, will hold an open forum that should be packed out. We will be taking a handful of students to listen and afterwards to have an "open house" format to come and talk about what was said. We are inviting a professor of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary to lead the discussion. BBQ will be had by all and I think it will be a worthwhile and profound experience for students and educators alike. The goal is not to refute or defend, but rather to process what we just heard and to ask questions. If all goes well, many will be encouraged and challenged anew.



"The desire for safety stands against every great and noble endeavor."

-Tacitus

σωζειν τα φεινομενα (*saving the appearances...an ancient Greek expression.*)



On a more personal note, in my time here, I have learned that if human history has a constant, it is to flee from the natural rhythm of creation. Think of the way we measure time. In the earliest points of our history, there was no intermediary between time and man. We looked directly at the sun, and its position dictated what time of day it was. Plans were made based on the seasons and the weather. Then we began to create simple tools that served as go-betweens in this process. We had a sundial, which physically lowered our eyes from the sky to a small table, and introduced at least the figure of a clock. As transportation increased in complexity and speed, the need to pay attention to the weather was

less important. The next grand development was the clock, which introduced gears, chimes, an entirely new nomenclature, and all of a sudden time had no link to anything natural. Its measurement became abstract, subject to however we chose to define it. Some historians point out that the clock was introduced by Christian monks who wanted to have a more exact awareness of precisely when the day's various offices were to be performed. From this original desire to render religion as a tight schedule springs our modern frustration that everything else in life happens in tiny, exact increments. Perhaps subconsciously we have come to believe that everything works this way.

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Lastly, I have had to make a conscious effort to focus on my own spiritual growth since it remains true that I am as interested in being a disciple as I am in making disciples. Intellectual stimulation is not the same as communion with the Spirit of God. It's immensely freeing to consciously choose to do nothing but ruminate on a single verse of Scripture and remind myself of what it means to trust in Christ. On the relational front, students and many others here communicate via text messages and/or posting information on web sites or blogs. That's fine and I partake. Yet I am reminded that information gathering is not a substitute for relationships. All that said, there have been numerous times where the simple peace of not moving so quickly, drinking coffee with close friends or not thinking so frantically far ahead has been enough to drive me to tears. In my small opinion, there's a great dissonance between the way humanity has developed and the rhythm of creation. Just my thoughts that I share with you.

As always, your prayers, friendship, emails and encouragement are always appreciated and desired. Write when you can and take care.

His Servant & Your Friend,

JB