

Foundational Beliefs of a Christian Worldview

In December 2003 the Barna Research Group proved beyond question what many had suspected and feared for quite sometime. There is a serious crisis concerning the absence of a biblical worldview among Americans both outside and inside the Church. Now we should first observe that the Barna Group's definition of a biblical worldview was not complex. The fact is it was quite simple and basic, beliefs you would expect children who regularly attend Sunday School would know and affirm. A basic biblical worldview was defined as:

- 1) The belief in absolute moral truths.
- 2) The belief that absolute moral truths are revealed in and defined by the Bible.
- 3) The belief that Jesus lived a sinless life.
- 4) The belief that God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe who sovereignly rules it today.
- 5) The belief that salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned.
- 6) The belief that Satan is real.
- 7) The belief that a Christian has the responsibility to share his faith in Christ with others.
- 8) The belief that the Bible is accurate in all its teachings.

Given post-modern's rejection of truth as a fixed, universal, objective reality, one is not surprised that only 4% of Americans have a basic biblical worldview of thinking.

As Stanley Fish, dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago writes, "But it is one thing to take religion as an object of study and another to take religion seriously. To take religion seriously would be to regard it not as a phenomenon to be analyzed at arm's length, but as a candidate for the truth."¹

¹Stanley Fish, "One University, Under God?", *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (1-7-05), C4.

However, the real shock came when it was discovered that only 9% of those who claim to be born again have a biblical worldview. The numbers were even lower among other religious classifications: Protestants (7%), adults who attend mainline Protestant churches (2%) and Catholics (less than one-half of 1%). The denominations that produced the highest proportions of adults with a biblical worldview were non-denominational Protestant churches (13%), Pentecostal churches (10%), and Baptist churches (8%). In summarizing his findings, Barna made the rather sobering observation:

If Jesus Christ came to this planet as a model of how we ought to live, then our goal should be to act like Jesus. Sadly, few people consistently demonstrate the love, obedience and priorities of Jesus. The primary reason that people do not act like Jesus is because they do not think like Jesus. Behavior stems from what we think – our attitudes, beliefs, values and opinions. Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life. We're often more concerned with survival amidst chaos than with experiencing truth and significance.²

To act like Jesus we must think like Jesus. To live biblically we must know what the Bible says, understanding it, and then integrate it into the totality of our lives.

I believe there are certain foundational tenets that are essential to our being a worldview Christian. They are non-negotiable, not optional. To jettison even one is to seriously compromise a genuine Christian worldview way of thinking. I am convinced that 10 such foundations exist. They comprise a core of Christian doctrine and belief that must be held without mental reservation or hesitation if we are to think Christianly. These 10 propositions are not without sufficient warrant. However, they serve more as

² "A Biblical Worldview Has A Radical Effect on a Person's Life," *The Barna Update*, Dec. 1, 2003.

first principles, assumptions, or presuppositions that describe ontologically and functionally what a worldview Christ is. I shall note each proposition, making only brief comments.

Ten Foundational Beliefs of a Christian Worldview

Belief One: God

There is one true God, personal, infinite, self-revealing, all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present, self-existent, sovereign, and eternal. God is righteous, holy, loving, merciful, and redemptive. God is a trinity of three eternal persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; God is also one – a unity. Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4-6; Jonah 4:2; Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:16-21.

We are not tri-theist or polytheism. We are not pantheist or deist. We are not finite theist or open theist. And, we are not fatalist or revisionist, even when disaster and tragedy strike. As Gene Veith wisely asserts, "... the tsunami does not disprove the existence of the God of the Bible. It only disproves the existence of the kind of god we make up for ourselves." Veith then adds, "at one time, [God] went so far as to tsunami the whole world, sparing only a single family in an ark (and in His mercy said He would never flood the whole world again)."³ We are Trinitarians who affirm the personality of God and the sovereignty of God, the goodness of God and the greatness of God. He rules and he reigns. He loves and He judges. He is above us and outside of us but He can also be with us and in us. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is not the imaginary God of a Deepak Chopra who says, "I think God is more likely to be a woman because women are nurturing and caring and loving. The human male has become the most predatory animal on our planet. It's time we embrace the feminine face of God."⁴ Neither is He an old, bearded white male floating on a celestial cloud. He is the King and Lord of all that is.

³ Gene Edward Veith, "Tsunami atheism," *World* (1-22-05), 31.

⁴ Andrea Sachs, "10 Questions for Deepak Chopra," *Time* (1-24-05), 10.

“Is He safe?!” to quote C.S. Lewis in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*: No, but He is good.

Belief Two: Revelation

God has revealed Himself in nature and Scripture, and supremely in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. It truthfully reveals to us knowledge about God, the world, and ourselves. This Word is our sole authority for faith and life. Psalm 19; 119; Matt. 5:17-18; John 10:35; 17:17; Rom. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

Francis Bacon said, “There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent us from falling into error: first, the volume to the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the creation, which expresses His power.”⁵

Our God is a talking God who has revealed Himself. He did so supremely in His Son and truthfully in the Scriptures. Though we cannot know God exhaustively, we can know Him genuinely. Nature and conscience teach us about His power and moral nature. Scripture teaches us concerning His personality and character. As the living word Lord Jesus is sinless, so the written word the Bible is errorless. This theological conviction is rooted both in the testimony of the Bible (eg. David, Jesus, Paul and Peter) and the nature of scripture as the Word of God. However, it is one thing to say you believe the Bible and something completely different to know it and obey it. Stephen Prothero of Boston University recently reported that America is “A Nation of Faith and Religious Illiterates.” He notes,

... according to a 1997 poll, only one out of three U.S. citizens is able to name the most basic of Christian texts, the four Gospels, and 12% think Noah’s wife was Joan of Arc. That paints a picture of a nation that believes God speaks in Scripture but can’t be bothered to read what he has to say... When Americans debated slavery, almost exclusively on the basis of the Bible, people of all races and classes could follow the debate.

⁵ Sir Francis Bacon, 15th century scientist who is credited with developing the scientific method (quoted in “*Answers in Genesis*,” Feb. 1995).

They could make sense of its references to the runaway slave in the New Testament book of Philemon and to the year of jubilee, when slaves could be freed, in the Old Testament book of Leviticus. Today it is a rare American who can engage with any sophistication in biblically inflected arguments about gay marriage, abortion or stem cell research. How did this happen? How did one of the most religious countries in the world become a nation of religious illiterates? Religious congregations are surely at fault. Churches and synagogues that once inculcated the “fourth R” are now telling the faithful stories “ripped from the headlines” rather than teaching them the Ten Commandments or parsing the Sermon on the Mount (which was delivered, as only one in three Americans can tell you, by Jesus).⁶

A worldview Christian will not only affirm his confidence in the Bible’s truthfulness, he will prove it by knowing it and obeying it. After all the North Carolina evangelist Vance Havner was right when he said, “what we live is what we believe, everything else is just religious talk.”

Belief Three: Creation

The universe and all that exists was created by God alone through the power of His Word, and as the theater of His own glory. He oversees what He has made, exercising His holy and wise government for moral ends. Gen. 1-2; Psalm 19; John 1:1-5; Acts 17:22-31; Col. 1:15-17.

Christians are not evolutionist. We do not believe, for example, that:

“Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”

- Richard Dawkins

“There are no purposive principles whatsoever in nature. There are no gods and no designing forces that are rationally detectable...”

- William Provine, Cornell University

“Humans are....a fortuitous cosmic afterthought...”

- Stephen Jay Gould, deceased scientist, Harvard University

⁶ Stephen Prothero, “A Nation of Faith and Religious Illiterates,” *Los Angeles Times* (1-12-05).

“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races.”⁷

- Charles Darwin

“The first point to make about Darwin’s theory is that it is no longer a theory, but a fact.”

- Julian Huxley

“The whale’s ascendancy to sovereign size apparently began sixty million years ago when hairy, four-legged mammals in search of food or sanctuary, ventured into water. As eons passed, changes slowly occurred. Hind legs disappeared, front legs changed into flippers, hair gave way to a thick smooth blanket of blubber, nostrils moved to the top of the head, the tail broadened into flukes, and in the buoyant water world, the body became enormous.”

- *National Geographic* (vol. 50).

“The idea that we on the Earth hold some type of privileged position within the universe, or that one particular group of individuals on this planet holds a supernaturally ordained privileged position over its other inhabitants, is recognized for the absurdity that it must be.”

- Alan Hale, director of the Southwest Institute for Space Research, Cloudcroft, New Mexico; co-discoverer of Comet Hale-Bopp.

Consistent worldview Christians are not theistic evolutionist either. By faith we believe God is eternal not matter. By faith we believe God created all that is *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. By faith, and with significant scientific evidence, we believe all person’s find their origin in 2 primordial parents, Adam and Eve. These parents, revealed in Genesis 1-3, are historical not mythical.

Based upon our current understanding of the Bible and reliable scientific evidence, we remain open to issues like the age of the earth and universe. We understand that the real debate is between intelligent design and natural selection/random mutation, between theistic creation and naturalistic/atheistic evolution. Interestingly,

⁷ Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981), 201.

A CBS/New York Times poll at the time of the election found 55% of Americans believed in God created humans in their present form, 27% believed in evolution guided by God and only 13% believed God was not involved in human evolution. And 65% backed teaching creationism alongside evolution.⁸

Belief Four: Human Beings

Human beings, male and female, are created equally in the likeness and image of God; However, they are born sinners in rebellion against God. Humans are sinners by nature and sin by choice. Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-19; Psalm 51:5, 139:13-16; Rom. 3:9-20; James 3:9.

The late evangelical theologian Carl F.H. Henry said, “As never before, humanity is confronted with two world views, two life views, the divergences between which are quite plain in every department of interpretation. They stand so far apart today that each denies the right of the other to life...” James Orr adds, “It need not further be denied that between this view of the world involved in Christianity, and what is sometime termed ‘the modern view of the world,’ there exists a deep and radical antagonism.” When it comes to our understanding of human beings, these observations have never been more truth.

Men and women are not highly evolved primates as taught by naturalism and evolution. We are the unique and direct creation of God made in the image and likeness of God. As His image-bearers we have been endowed with a capacity for rulership, relationship and reason. As image-bearers of God men and women have equal dignity, worth and value. In this context we can feel good about who we are as God’s special creation. However, we are also sinners by nature and choice; in open, hostile rebellion against our Creator. This should foster a genuine spirit of humility and a heartfelt sense of unworthiness before the God who made us.

⁸ Julian Borger, “US school in eye of creationist storm,” *The Guardian* (1-13-05)

Because all persons bear the image of God, each and every human life is valuable, important and worthy of respect and protection from conception to natural death. We affirm the rightness of a sanctity of life ethic not a quality of life ethic.

Belief Five: Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is perfect both in His deity and also in His humanity, two natures united in one person. He lived a perfect sinless life. He suffered and was crucified for our sins, buried, and rose again in bodily resurrection. He ascended into the heavens and will come again in glory. Isa. 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; John 1:1-18; 8:58; 14:1-9; Acts 1:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:13-23; 2:9-10; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:15.

What you think about Jesus is the fulcrum of your Christian worldview. What you think about Him will influence what you think about everything else. In other words the “Jesus question” is unavoidable. C.S. Lewis helps us here in his classic *Mere Christianity*:

Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God ... He says He has always existed ... Among Pantheists ... anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips...

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him. “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come

with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.⁹

By God's providence the early church was forced to hammer out a clear and careful understanding of the person of Jesus Christ in the context of their unwavering commitment to monotheism. The result was the *Nicene Creed* of A.D. 325. Reflecting the language of scripture and taking to task the heretic Arius who denied the eternal existence of the Son they said:

We believe in one God, the Father All-sovereign, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all the ages, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens, and was made flesh of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man, and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended into the heavens, and sits on the right hand of the Father, and comes again with glory to judge living and dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end. (emphasis mine)

Malcolm Muggeridge would add in our day, "I have looked far and wide, inside and outside my own head and heart, and I have found nothing other than this Man and His words which offers any answer to the dilemmas of this tragic, troubled time. If His light has gone out, then, as far as I am concerned, there is no light."

Belief Six: Salvation by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in Christ Alone

Salvation is God's work accomplished in us by His grace alone, through faith alone, in the Lord Jesus Christ alone, whose death on the cross accomplished the redemption of sinners. He died as our penal substitute and was raised victorious over death in His bodily resurrection. Isa. 52:13-53:12; Mark 10:45; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 3:13-14; 1 John 2:12, 4:10.

⁹ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, (1979 ed.) pgs. 54-55

Christianity is unique in teaching that no person can save themselves. Virtually every religion believes and teaches that you can reach up to God through practical religion and your own works. Christianity believes and teaches that God reaches down to you in a personal relationship. The great religions of the world teach you are saved by works. Christianity teaches you are saved by grace on the basis of what Jesus did. The 3 sola's (alone) of our statement are not theological window-dressing or non-essential additions. It is by grace alone thru faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone that one is saved from their sins.

To say it another way: I get to go to heaven thru Jesus or not at all. If Jesus and His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead is not adequate to get me to God and heaven, then I will not make it.

Gene Veith is again on target as he puts the issue of mankind's salvation in the context of the grand meta-narrative of reality:

The Bible reveals that the God behind all of life is indeed frightening, but that He is also righteous. Moreover, He loves us. That was news to the ancient pagans, who assumed that the gods were capricious and cruel. God's goodness, though, is often hidden in this fallen world, which is indeed a realm of sin, suffering, wrath, and disorder. He will indeed eliminate all evil and suffering, but that comes later, when the dead will rise to a New Heaven and New Earth. In the meantime, we live in a vale of soul-building.

What is missing in most people's conception of God is that He does not just look down from heaven on the human condition. Rather, He joins it. The Second Person of the Trinity became Man. God Himself suffered hunger, poverty, and physical pain. He himself died unfairly in the prime of life. More than that, in a miracle as stupendous as the creation, He took upon Himself the sin, guilt, and afflictions of the world. He atoned for them all in His death on the cross.¹⁰

¹⁰ Veith.

A worldview Christian will allow no place for pluralism (there are many ways to God) or inclusivism (God will include you in the saved if you do the best you can with what you have). No, let's be clear. Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, Cultist, New Agers, Atheists and any and all others who reach a condition of moral accountability are lost. There is only one Savior and His name is Jesus. There is no other.

Belief Seven: The Family

The family is God's gracious and loving creation given for our protection, pleasure, and partnership. Sex is God's good gift and is to be enjoyed only within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman. It is intended for intimacy, pleasure and the gift of children. Gen. 2:18-25; Exodus 20:12; Psalm 127, 128; Prov. 5:15-20, 31:10-31; 1 Cor. 6:18-20, 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-6:4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

No institution is under greater attack in our day. No institution needs biblical definition and clarity more. What does this include:

- 1) a biblical understanding of gender.
- 2) a biblical understanding of sex.
- 3) a biblical understanding of marriage.
- 4) a biblical understanding of the gift of children.
- 5) a biblical understanding of singleness.

A worldview Christian will not compromise the Bible's teaching on the sinfulness of homosexuality. He will not compromise the Bible's teaching on the sinfulness of premarital, extra-marital and unnatural sex. He will stand steadfastly against the culture of divorce and the pathetic heritage left by too many of our parents and grandparents. The covenant nature of marriage will once again be recaptured, held high and embraced.

This is not the worldview of the media and the major universities dotting our landscape. Harvard's Jordan Hylden, a conservative Protestant, sums up the current status of most American colleges and universities quite well when he says, "Today's university is without morals or guiding principles, except one...to follow in all things the

ideal of 'to thine own sex be true.' Individual desires, whatever they are, are affirmed, and the denial of these desires, by yourself or by another person or group, is the greatest possible evil."¹¹

How does this flesh itself out when it comes to sex? Jennifer Mickel a Princeton sophomore minces no words, "Many of my girlfriends describe their sexual exploits in graphic detail and tell me that I need to get over my "penis fear."¹²

This is not sex as God intended, a sexual ethic with no guiding parameters or principles that has resulted in what? Listen to the following doomsday data:

- The Federal Government reported in December 2000 that 65 million American are walking around with an STD (*U.S. News & World Report*, 12-18-2000, p. 14).
- Approximately 15.3 million Americans contract an STD annually. That is almost 42,000 every 24 hours. One in 4 is under the age of 20.
- At the present rate 1 in 4 Americans between the ages of 15 and 55 will eventually acquire an STD.
- 30 years ago there were only 4 types of STD's, today there are more than 25 (*Focus on the Family*, letter, Sept. 2004).
- And let us not forget: many STD's are incurable, others can render you sterile, and some are potentially fatal.
- At least 50% of all High School students will have had sexual intercourse by the time they are 18.
- And according to Josh McDowell: by age 18, 43% of church youth have engaged in sexual intercourse, and another 18% have fondled breasts or genitals. Additionally, 36% of the youth said they were not able to state that sexual intercourse was morally unacceptable before marriage!
- Each year more than 1 million high school women in America become unwed mothers. And add to this that in that same year alone, over 400,000 girls between the ages of 15 and 18 will make the tragic decision to have an abortion.
- ¾ of teenage pregnancies are unintended.
- More than half of women who become pregnant as teenagers do not finish high school.
- 70% of families headed by women who became mothers under the age of 25 live below the poverty level (Center For Population Options).

It would appear that God knows best when it comes to sex.

¹¹ Brian C. Anderson, "Right on Campus," *WSJ.com* (1-14-05).

¹² *Ibid.*

Belief Eight: Government and Society

Human society, government, culture and nations were created by God for our good, though all societies are marred by sin and limited in authority. Christians should seek to make the will of God supreme not only in our own lives, but also in government and society. Exodus 20:3-17; Prov. 14:34; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7.

In an age that rejects all forms of authority, we affirm the divinely ordained authority of the family, the church and government. We understand that any government is almost always better than no government (anarchy). However, if faced with the decision to honor God or honor government, our allegiance will always be to God. The Church's mission is to make better Christians not better Americans, though better Christians will be better Americans. For the Christian, our hope is in Calvary's hill not Capitol Hill. Christians must be on guard concerning an unhealthy nationalism. Nazi Germany will forever be a horrific reminder of this danger.

Belief Nine: Social Action

The Social Order should be permeated by Christian witness. Living out the ethics of Scripture, we are to be salt and light to a wicked and darkened world. We should oppose racism, greed, selfishness, and all forms of sexual immorality and pornography. We should help the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, and the helpless. We contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Exodus 20-3-17; Deut. 27:18-26; Psalm 139:13-16; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:13-16; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 7:21-24; Eph. 4:25-5:12; 1 Thess. 4:1-8.

We do not preach a social gospel but we will be socially active. We will function as Christian citizens who are involved politically, socially and personally in promoting justice and righteousness, kindness and compassion. We will work to protect and aid the defenseless and the needy. We understand that living out the implications of the gospel in the public arena will authenticate our message and earn us the right to be heard. Unfortunately the Christian witness has not always been clear and consistent. One need only consider the blight of racism and the shame of slavery. And, consider the fact that though Christians are ardent supporters of adoption, at least 80% of American churches

do not have a single family that adopted during the past year.¹³ Rigorous biblical thinking is especially needful in these areas if we are to avoid the nearsighted maladies of cultural and societal bias, and if we are to live out what we say we believe.

Belief Ten: Judgment

History has a goal. God will accomplish the fulfillment of all His purposes, according to the pleasure of His own will and to His own glory. On the Day of Judgment, God will judge all persons and His justice and holiness will be fully satisfied. Believers in Jesus Christ, the redeemed, will enter into everlasting life in a place called heaven. Unbelievers, the unrighteous, will go to everlasting punishment in a place called hell. Matt. 25:31-46; John 14:1-3; Rom. 8:28-39; 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eph. 1:3-14; Rev. 19:11-21; 20:11-15; 21-22.

Existence is not reincarnational or cyclical. You really do go around only once.

While there are reoccurring patterns in redemptive history, history is going someplace. It is going to end. There is an Omega point personally and cosmically which will give way to eternity.

Contrary to some popular beliefs and sentimental hopes, everyone will not be saved. Origen's heaven where even the devil is reconciled to God is fantasy, not reality. A Christian worldview entertains no theology of universal salvation, no matter what some may hope.

We should remember that it was Jesus Himself who spoke to the issue of hell and eternal damnation more than anyone else in the Bible. If there is no hell, the coming of the Son of God into this world to die on a Roman cross makes no sense at all. If, on the other hand, heaven and hell are real and one's relationship with Jesus is the only difference, worldview Christians must proclaim this truth with heartfelt compassion, and we must expend our resources and offer our lives to see that this message gets to every single person. After-all, all this world can do to us in this life is kill us. If the biblical

¹³ Susan Olasky, "Leading by example," *World* (1-22-05), 22-23.

worldview is correct then we live in the light of Phil. 1:21 and the win/win scenario is ours. “For me to live is Christ.” I win. “To die is gain.” I win. From this foundation of victory, we warn sinners to flee to Jesus as their only hope to avoid the wrath to come.

Conclusion:

C.S. Lewis said, “I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I see everything by it.”¹⁴ Lewis was on to something important when he said this. Christianity makes sense of the world we live in. It explains its wonder, how things get off track and messed up, and how things can be put right again. It is a “good fit” in explaining why things are the way that they are, and it provides answers to the deepest longings of our soul. Blaise Pascal said, “the heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing.”¹⁵ The heart not only feels, it thinks! It sees! It understands! To this he adds, “Only Christianity makes men both happy and loveable.”¹⁶ What an awesome combination. Christianity speaks to the mind. Christianity speaks to the heart. Here we can rest. Here we can stand. Here we can live and die.

¹⁴ Quoted in *The Banner*, Aug. 2000.

¹⁵ Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*, #423.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, #426.