

TriBakery Group: Worldview #7

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

Scripture:

“Be Still and know that I am God...”

Psalm 46:10

“Then Job answered the Lord and said: ‘I know that you can do everything, and that no purpose of yours can be withheld from you. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42: 1-6

“He is the image of the invisible God...”

Colossians 1:15

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

Remember:

Every worldview has to hold three main areas of belief:

Creation – where do we come from?

Fall – how come there is evil in the world?

Redemption – how do you correct or change the evil?

Quotes:

“...most evangelicals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries called on the services of a philosophy imported from Scotland called Common Sense realism...Common Sense realism was imported to America by John Witherspoon, who left Scotland in 1768 to become president of Princeton University (then called the College of New Jersey)...Common Sense realism was crafted by the Scottish philosopher Thomas Reid in response to the radical skepticism of a fellow Scot, David Hume...The way to avoid skepticism, Reid proposed, is to realize that some knowledge is ‘self-evident’ – that is, it is forced upon us simply by the way human nature is constituted. As a result, no one really doubts or denies it. It is part of immediate, undeniable experience...For example, no one really doubts that he or she exists (not in practice, at least). No one doubts that the material world is real (we look both ways before crossing the street). Nor do we doubt our inner experiences like memories or pain (If I say I have a headache, you don’t ask, How do you know?). If anyone does deny these basic facts, we call them insane – or a philosopher. And even philosophers deny them only theoretically: Hume himself said that, after reasoning his way to radical skepticism in the solitude of his study, he would clear his mind by playing a good game of backgammon with his friends.”

Nancy Pearcey, pp296-297, Total Truth

“There are an infinity of angles at which one falls, only one at which one stands”

G.K. Chesterton

“In one sense, of course, all intelligent ideas are narrow.”

G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy

“Mysticism keeps men sane. As long as you have mystery you have health; when you destroy mystery you create morbidity...The whole secret of mysticism is this: that man can understand everything by the help of what he does not understand. The morbid logician seeks to make everything lucid, and succeeds in making everything mysterious. The mystic allows one thing to be mysterious, and everything else becomes lucid.”

G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy

Discussion: How do knowledge and mystery relate? Are there limits to either? What do the above Scripture and quotes tell us about knowledge and mystery? Do artists have a harder time with knowledge or mystery or both? Why or why not? How do you live with the mysterious without going insane (as Chesterton refers to)?