

FAITH AND REASON

Central issues

What is faith?

- As though...
- Faith is never blind
 - It makes sense of evidence
 - It is driven by hope
 - It is confirmed in love
- God
 - God worthy of the name
 - "That than which nothing greater can be thought"
 - God beyond all that is
- World
 - World worth living
 - Accurate and realistic account of the world
- Humans
 - Account for human reality
 - Account for human aspirations
 - The Answer
- Technical terms
 - Various ways of talking about faith
 - Belief and faith
- The difference between knowledge and faith
- The object of faith: the highest truth
- Faith and "faiths"

WE WALK BY FAITH

We walk by faith, and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.
We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"
Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound,
To call on you when you are near,
And seek where you are found:
That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are,
With full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford (1870-71)

Tune: Marty Haugen

Laudate 284

What is reason?

- The purpose of the intellect
 - The relationship between knowing and willing and doing
- Reason
 - The scope of reason
 - The necessity of reason
 - The proper use of reason
- Condition
 - Fallen reason
 - Grace and reason

Philosophy

- The truth
- Seeking the truth
- One truth or a multiplicity of truths?
- Truth and ideology

Role of other disciplines of knowledge (FR 69)

- Philosophy
 - Is born in every culture
 - Is a universal philosophy possible?
- Science
 - A particular version of European philosophy
 - Seems to present a surer way to knowledge

- Continuing need of philosophy in the broad sense
 - The sciences can indeed produce truth, but even they need philosophy for a proper integration of this truth into human life.
 - In order to navigate between different cultural truths, a strong philosophical analysis is needed
 - Philosophy helps theology to evaluate differing truth claims

That which is beyond reason

- The mysteries of life
- The meaning of life
- Revelation
 - How revelation occurs
 - When revelation occurs
 - What is revealed
- Revelation brings salvation (FR 10)
 - What is salvation?
 - The purpose of revelation is to bring humanity into communion with God.
 - The deeds of God and the words of God interact to bring the fullness of the truth.
 - "the deepest truth about God and human salvation is made clear to us in Christ, who is the mediator and at the same time the fullness of all revelation."

Theology: Reasoning about faith

- Theology and faith
- Philosophy and theology
- Theology and other rational pursuits

The Church's mission in the truth (FR 2)

- The Church must always seek the truth
- It has to make use of both the resources of reason and of revelation

Reason and faith are not in competition (FR 17)

- God and humanity are complementary
 - The glory of God is human fulfillment
 - The glory of humanity is found in seeking the things of God
- Reason promises satisfaction in the truth
 - "The desire for knowledge is so great and it works in such a way that the human heart, despite its experience of insurmountable limitation, yearns for the infinite riches which lie beyond, knowing that there is to be found the satisfying answer to every question as yet unanswered."

The relationship between theology and philosophy as a circle (FR 73)

- Theology begins with God's word, received as truth
- It then reflects upon this truth through the engagement with philosophy
- Reason, through this interaction, is then led to "explore paths which of itself it would not even have suspected it could take.
- This engagement then leads to the transformation of philosophy and its elevation to the Word of God

Cultures

- Christianity and culture
 - Christians are not strangers to cultural differences
 - The universality of the Gospel demands engagement with different cultures
- Coordination among cultures
 - Christ enables the many to become one
 - Faith shows what unites different cultures
 - Faith shows the truth that each culture holds

Cultures and human experience (FR 71)

- Knowing within cultures
 - Perspectives
 - Connections
 - Ways of seeing the world
 - Cultures are porous
 - Revelation can only complement cultures
 - "While it demands of all who hear it the adherence of faith, the proclamation of the Gospel in different cultures allows people to preserve their own cultural identity"
 - No one culture can judge the rest
- Other cultures and theology (FR 72)
- Christian engagement beyond the European
 - Discernment is necessary in the integration of theology into different cultures
 - Cultures must not be seen to be enclosed islands of truth; it must be recognized that cultures are inherently capable of engaging the faith

THIS VERY MORNING

Text and Music by Rory Cooney

1. As though this breeze were born of hov - 'ring wings,
 2. As though our eyes were lit by tongues of fire,
 3. As though all cha - os hushed at God's com - mand,
 4. As though no pow'r might hold God's own in thrall,
 5. As though a God might kneel to wash our feet,

As though this sing - ing were the
 As though on clo - ver paths God
 As though earth's boun - ty might be
 As though no hu - man grip could
 As though new wind and flame

breath of God, As though this world were wet from
 spoke our name, As though a slave a - woke in
 shared by all, As though from hu - man sin a
 grasp and hold, As though a king could fear a
 rout our fear, As though a gift were giv'n for

re - cent birth, As though these
 free - dom's light, As though from
 pro - mise bloomed, As though we
 ba - by's cry, As though a
 ev - 'ry need, As though the

thank - ful tongues were all the tongues of earth, *To V. 2*
 death a dream might leap, as day from night: *To Refrain*
 wept, and saw through tears an emp - ty tomb, *To V. 4*
 god might hang a strong-bow in the sky: *To Refrain*
 bread we break might all cre - a - tion feed: *To Refrain*

Refrain

Let us re - joice! This ver - y morn - ing, This is the

3

day that God has made: Let us be glad now!

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