

2. Toward a Christian View of Knowing

a. "The Contemporary Apologetic Task," a paper by Robert J. Dunzweiler:

Warren C. Young, Prof of Philosophy of Religion at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1946, gives the following challenge in his work A Xn Approach to Philosophy:

"May it not be argued that what is needful in terms of Xn ideals and activity can be achieved without resorting to a study of empirical philosophies at all? It is possible that it can, but we are reminded that R. A. Torrey once remarked that he who understands only the Bible does not understand the Bible. . . . Dr. Torrey . . . recognized that Xn scholarship begins with an understanding of non-Xn interpretations of many areas of experience. If non-Xn affirmations are to be evaluated from the Xn perspective, then certainly the minimum requirement is that they be understood. . . . Understanding makes the difference between dogmatic opposition and scholarly evaluation. . . . It is the task of the Xn leader to understand the ideologies of his day so that he may be able to meet their challenge. The task is a never-ending one, for, although the Xn's worldview does not change, the world about him does. Thus the task of showing the relevance of the Xn realistic philosophy to a world in process is one which requires eternal vigilance. To such a task, to such an ideal, the Xn leader must dedicate himself."

More precisely, we must again ask the question: What is the apologetic task? Among others, five proposed answers suggest themselves: The apologetic task is to:

- (a) prove by reasoning that Xy is the only true worldview.
- (b) give reasons for the contention that Xy is the most adequate, or most reasonable, or most probable worldview.
- (c) give reasons to support the assertion that Xy is at least as probable a worldview as any other.
- (d) present Xy as the only true worldview, without resorting to evidences or reasons in its behalf.
- (e) present Xy as the only true worldview, and then to present evidences, reasons, arguments in support of this view.

The answer as to which of the above views fulfills the task of Xn apologetics must, in part as least, be decided upon the basis of the solutions to three rather pressing problems:

- (1) the effect of sin upon General Revelation;
- (2) the relation between TRUTH and human knowledge; and
- (3) the relation between human reason and Faith.

The answer to these questions may well determine, or at least strongly suggest, a Scriptural stance on the matters of Approach,