

Enter Into His Light in the Entire Sphere of Thought

Objections to a Christian Education

The first objection is sure to come with reference to the inevitability of that which has resulted from past historical developments. We are sure to be charged with making the useless attempt to return to the Middle Ages. A return to the Middle Ages, however, would not be enough for us, because the theology of the Middle Ages, as we have already seen, set the pagan philosophy of Aristotle as a second source of knowledge on the same level as Scripture. This is not to mention the influence of neo-Platonism, which had already made its presence felt in the early Middle Ages.

It will be stated to us that it is impossible to turn back the wheel of history, that we will therefore have to put up with the conditions that we find today. Two things may be said to this:

First, this kind of talk is rooted in pure deception since it personifies and ascribes power to history. That power which is inherent to God—because he reigns and steers the destinies of peoples—is rested from him and given to history, which is assumed to govern like an impersonal *It*. The oft-invoked *wheel of history* appears to be a modification of the *wheel of rebirth* which is a familiar concept in Hindu and Buddhist religion.

Second, it is by no means our intention to go back or to set ourselves against historical development. We want, rather, to turn back to the living God, our Creator, and the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We want to enter into his light in the entire sphere of thought, including education, culture, and science, so that he will forgive and instruct us. He made the sure promise that he will give wisdom to him who asks him for it (James 1:5). He will certainly not deny us the grace to make a new beginning.

(Historical Criticism of the Bible: Methodology or Ideology? (Reflections of a Bultmannian turned Evangelical) by Eta Linnemann, Translated by Robert W. Yarbrough, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1991 [1990], 50)