

my major and minor fields. After that I'm through with course work and ready to start my dissertation.

Right now my tentative major is Prose Fiction and my minor is Nineteenth Century. Although these reflect my pre-Christian interests, a case can be made for not changing. The major gives me a synchronic method of dealing with literature, as it covers the late sixteenth through the twentieth centuries; it also involves gaining knowledge in literary criticism in general and novel criticism in particular.... In many respects, the modern mind is just a slightly further development of the Victorian mind (Walter Houghton's *The Victorian Frame of Mind* covers this).

There are certain areas for which my preparation so far is so inadequate that the time expenditure involved in becoming competent in them would probably not be outweighed by the knowledge gained. Such is the case with Medieval Studies and, perhaps, the Renaissance. It is sobering for me to realize that those are two time periods when literature implicitly and explicitly Christian was being written; but that's just the problem: I don't know if I should be learning about Christian literature (how could that help me be a better apologist) or simply developing an approach to literature. If the latter, is there still a period or area which would be more helpful for the apologetics battle than an other? It is only with a strong sense of purpose and conviction that what I am doing in the classroom now will better equip me to fight Christian battles later that I can stay in this program.

Richard Kinch, who has given me some advice so far, says we need Christians in my field, since it is so barren of them, but I still can't figure out what I can do. I won't be taking that Ph.D. and attempting to infiltrate a secular university; I plan to go to seminary and, if I stay in academia, it will be in the Christian academy. He says we need a Christian viewpoint in the Humanities, but I see that as a contradiction in terms; the absolute, rock bottom presupposition of my department is anti-Christian (whether they realize it or not). They recognize no absolutes and regard the Bible as just another (mythical) text. That is not a viewpoint to be reformed or subverted; it simply has to be rejected. Once one starts reading as a Christian a lot of material becomes irrelevant or offensive.

This is not at all to suggest that I have lost my sense of