

appreciation for literature, far from it. I merely question how or why the study of that literature can become a vital part of my Christian mission, vital enough to warrant another four years studying it.

Dear ...

Thank you for your very interesting letter. I was glad to note your clear understanding of the anti-Christian attitudes that characterize so much of modern thought and your realization of the way the anti-Christian attitudes of 20th century literature has developed from what was already present in that of the 19th century.

However, I don't quite agree with your statement that "a Christian viewpoint in the humanities" would be "a contradiction in terms". It may well be that this is true of the way the humanities are widely taught today, but it should not be so. The term originally represented the study of all that was best in the activities and thoughts of human beings, and surely all that really deserves to come under this category is a gift of God.

Yet unbelief is nothing new. It began in the Garden of Eden, and Satan has been busy trying to mislead us ever since.

I took my undergraduate work in a small Christian college that had a very high academic standing. It had been organized by Christian people two or three decades before I entered and when I was a student there was still a very strong Christian influence on the campus. The dean told me once that they sometimes had difficulty finding good men in the scientific fields who had not been affected by anti-Christian attitudes and were therefore particularly careful that their teachers in other areas be men who could be recognized as Christian thinkers. Yet I soon noticed that aside from questions regarding the theory of evolution there was comparatively little in the attitude of its scientific departments at that time that might pose a problem to a man's faith. In the courses in literature some of the teachers were solid Christians and had a good influence on the students, but even during the time I was there I saw new professors with unchristian viewpoints coming into these departments and having a far greater influence over the minds of the students than any of the professors in the scientific fields. While most of the students thought they were simply discussing literature and not dealing with philosophic or