

# THE GREAT TEMPTATIONS

*Vocation Is Mission*  
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*“He who knows the most mourns the deepest.”*  
– Lord Byron

A Way In– I want a darker story!

- “42” and “Django Unchained” – and reflections on the moral imagination
- “Hope” incarnate, and the last few weeks in Washington
- The most difficult question of all: can we know the world, and still love it?

1. Thinking Theologically

- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

What will we *do* with what we *know*?

- Romans 1

2. The Perennial Responses

- Stoicism and Tom Wolfe

Sociological stoicism

Heschel, Warfield and *apatheia*

- Cynicism and John Le Carre

The danger of being cosmopolitan, a *kosmopolites*, a citizen of the world

3. What Will We Do With What We Know?

- Rethinking thinking—the richness of the Hebrew and Christian vision of knowledge

To have knowledge of means to have *responsibility* to means to have *care* for

*“The most important task of teaching is to teach what it means to know.”*

– Simone Weil, the last words in her journal the last night of her life.

- Choosing teachers—over the shoulder, through the heart learning

*“We do not learn to lay bricks without guidance from masters; neither do we learn how to hope without guidance from masters. The acquisition of a skill involves, usually, an initiation into a way of life.”*

– Stanley Hauerwas, *Christian Existence Today*

- Finding friends—“I can’t do it without you”

*“We find ourselves not independently of other people and institutions but through them. We never get to the bottom of our selves on our own. We discover who we are face to face and side by side with others in work, love and learning....”*

Robert Bellah et. al. *Habits of the Heart*

- Praying hard—“On earth as it is in heaven”

What is at the heart of our prayers is at the heart of our hearts

#### A Final Word—Leaf By Niggle, Again and Again and Again

*“The world is indeed full of peril and in it there are many dark places. But still there is much that is fair. And though in all lands, love is now mingled with grief, it still grows, perhaps, the greater.”*

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*