
Meditations on True Religion

*From John Cock**

True Religion

Man is the religious animal. He is the only religious animal. He is the only animal that has the True Religion—several of them. He is the only animal that loves his neighbor as himself and cuts his throat, if his theology isn't straight. He has made a graveyard of the globe in trying his honest best to smooth his brother's path to happiness and heaven.

—Mark Twain

Denying the Divinity of the Divine

When we try to explain [the vertical dimension] to people today, let us not start with the “question of God.” For people of our objectified world take “God” as an object whose existence or nonexistence is debated like that of another galaxy. This denies the divinity of the divine.

—Paul Tillich

Epiphany

In all great religious experiences, the divine appears and disappears. . . . For this we have the word “epiphany,” which means the appearing of an ungraspable divine power—being there and not being there. This “yes and no” is the foundation of all speaking about the divine. Thus may the vertical line of the divine enter the horizontal dynamics of human history . . . [and may] the vertical depth [be] in everything encountered.

—Paul Tillich

Everything Is Sacramental

If we had a different feeling toward nature, we would have different feelings for the wholeness and holiness of life. Not having this contributes to our loss of everything sacramental—because if the whole universe is not seen sacramentally, the partial sacraments die off. And in all cultural creations too we must show the presence of the holy.

—Paul Tillich



When I Fight Change

When I fight unwanted and unsought changes and when I seek to keep things just as they are, place me on the wings of birds flying south for another season. Gather their spirit of freedom into my heart. Let me be willing to leave my well-satisfied place of comfort. . . . Thank you, God of transformation, for all these lessons that the autumned earth teaches me.

—Joyce Rupp

* For these and other “Journey Reflections” by John Cock, see <http://www.rejourney.blogspot.com>. To receive a daily meditation by email, contact John Cock at jpc2025@triad.rr.com.