Apologetics — Presuppositionalism

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Presuppose (Presupposition) verb (used with object), pre·sup·posed, pre·sup·pos·ing. 1) to suppose or assume beforehand; take for granted in advance

Apologetics — Presuppositionalism (Thomism)

"I had for many years rejected the Thomistic-Butler type of approach to apologetics. I had done so because of the unbiblical view of man and the cosmos which underlay this apologetic. I had over and over pointed out that non-Christian schemes of thought, whether ancient or modern, presupposed a view of man as autonomous, of human thought or logic as legislative of what can or cannot exist in reality, and of pure contingency as correlative to such legislative thought. I had for years pointed out that for a Christian to adopt these non-Christian presuppositions about man, together with the dialectical interdependence of legislative logic and brute contingency, and then to join the natural man in asking whether God exists and whether Christianity is true would be fatal for his enterprise. If we allow that one intelligent word can be spoken about being or knowing or acting as such, without first introducing the Creator-creature distinction, we are sunk. As Christians we must not allow that even such a thing as enumeration or counting can be accounted for except upon the presupposition of the truth of what we are told in Scripture about the triune God as the Creator and Redeemer of the world. . .. If the unbeliever then points to the fact that non-Christian scientists and philosophers have discovered many actual "states of affairs," I heartily agree with this but I must tell him that they have done so with borrowed capital. They have done so adventitiously. The actual state of affairs about the entire cosmos is what the Bible says it is."
—— Van Til, Response [to Herman Dooyeweerd], in Jerusalem and Athens: Critical Discussions on the Philosophy and Apologetics of Cornelius Van Til, ed. E. R. Geehan (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1980), 90–91.