

Earl Palmer's favorite quotes

"Tell me how it stands with your Christology, and I shall tell you who you are." – **Barth** (*Dogmatics in Outline*, Harper & Row, 1959, p. 66)

"Right in the middle of all these things stands up an enormous exception. It is quite unlike anything else. It is a thing final like the trump of doom, though it is also a piece of good news; or news that seems to good to be true. It is nothing less than the loud assertion that this mysterious maker of the world has visited his world in person." – **Chesterton** (*The Everlasting Man*, Ignatius, p. 266)

"I have not minimised the scale of the miracle, as some of our milder theologians think it wise to do. Rather I have deliberately dwelt on that incredible interruption, as a blow that broke the very backbone of history. I have great sympathy with the monotheists, the Moslems, or the Jews, to whom it seems a blasphemy; a blasphemy that might shake the world. But it did not shake the world; it steadied the world." – **Chesterton** (*The Everlasting Man*, Ignatius, p. 269)

You might as well commit the future to God's hands because the future is in his hands whether you commit it to him or not. [actual quote: "A more Christian attitude, which can be attained at any age, is that of leaving futurity in God's hands. We may as well, for God will certainly retain it whether we leave it to Him or not." (from: "Learning in War Time" in *The Weight of Glory and other addresses*, Collier, p. 30)] – **Lewis**

"Joy is the serious business of heaven." – **C.S. Lewis** (*Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, ch. 17)

"The heart has its reasons that reason cannot know." [actual quote: "The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing"]. – **Pascal** (*Pensées*, #423 [Krailsheimer])

"Let us not mock God with metaphor." – **John Updike** ("Seven Stanzas at Easter")

"You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." – **St. Augustine** (*Confessions*, I.1)

"The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ binds us to himself." [actual quote: "The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself."] – **Calvin** (*Institutes*, III.i.1)

"We live each day as if it were our last and each day as if there were a great future." [actual quote: "...living every day as if it were our last, and yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future."] – **Bonhoeffer** (*Letters and Papers from Prison*, Collier, 1972, p. 15)

"You can't hear the last word until you've heard the next to the last word." [actual quote: "One cannot and must not speak the last word before the last but one."] – **Bonhoeffer** (*Letters and Papers from Prison*, Collier, 1972, p. 157)

"Do great things as though they were small, because of Jesus Christ, and small things as though they were great, because of Jesus Christ." [actual quote: "Do small things as if they were great, because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us and lives our life, and great things as if they were small and easy, because of his almighty power."] – **Pascal** (*Pensées*, #919 [Krailsheimer])

"It's good to be weary and worn out so that we may open our arms to the Redeemer." [actual quote: "It is good to be tired and weary from fruitlessly seeking the true good, so that one can stretch out one's arms to the Redeemer."] – **Pascal** (*Pensées*, #631 [Krailsheimer])

"Christianity hasn't been tried and found wanting, it has been found hard and hasn't been tried." [actual quote: "The Christian ideal, it is said, has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."] – **Chesterton** (*The Unfinished Temple, Collected Works*, 4:61)

"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." – **Pascal** (*Pensées*, #813 [Krailsheimer] or #895 [Brunschiwig])

"Purity of heart is to will one thing." – **Kierkegaard** (*Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing*, title)

"Christian faith is the gift of the meeting in which men [and women] become free to hear the word of grace which God has spoken in Jesus Christ in such a way that, in spite of all contradicts it, they may once and for all, exclusively and entirely, hold to his promise and guidance." – **Barth** (*Dogmatics in Outline*, Harper & Row, 1959, p. 15)

"Here I am in front of you, like a teacher in Sunday school facing his kiddies, who has something to say which a mere four-year-old can really understand. 'The world was lost, but Christ was born, rejoice!'" – **Barth** (*Dogmatics in Outline*, Harper & Row, 1959, p. 67)

"Aim at Heaven, and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you get neither." – **Lewis** (*Mere Christianity*)

About Bonhoeffer: "When he was silenced for good at thirty-nine, he began to speak more loudly than ever before." (**Eberhard Bethge**, "The Challenge of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life and Theology")

[approx.] "Professor Barth, now that Adolf Eichmann has been executed, would you say the sins of Germany have been put on his shoulders?" "No, the sins of Germany fell on quite another man's shoulders." (Q&A session after Barth's Warfield lectures at Princeton in 1962; Earl was in the audience)

"What man can know by his own power according to the measure of his natural powers, his understanding, his feeling, will be at most something like a supreme being, an absolute nature, the idea of an utterly free power, of a being towering over everything. This absolute and supreme being and absolute nature the ultimate and most profound, this 'thing in itself,' has nothing to do with God. It is part of the intuitions and marginal possibilities of man's thinking, man's contrivance. Man is able to think this being; but he has not thereby thought God. God is thought and known when in His own freedom God makes Himself apprehensible." – **Barth** (*Dogmatics in Outline*)
{approx} people despise faith, so ... first of all we must show that it's venerable, if I were to believe it were true, it would have a good effect on my life... so that good men will hope it's true, finally show it's true. – **Pascal** (*Pensées*)

No harm must be done to the critical choice. – **Barth**, Commentary on Romans [can't find it]
Don't forget in the darkness what you saw in the light. – **Robert Boyd Munger**

What we discover in the gospel is that the power of evil cannot do ultimate mischief. – **Barth**
Anything worth doing is worth doing badly. – **Chesterton**

One wonders. – **Barth**

I know not what the future holds, but well I know the One who holds the future. – **Luther**

Tell me what the hard words mean and you've done more for me than a thousand commentaries. – **Lewis** (*Studies in Words* or *An Experiment in Criticism?*)

Crying is all right for a while, but sooner or later you've got to stop and decide what to do. – **Lewis** (*The Silver Chair*)

If men are converted because of fear, they will later hate their conversion. – **Luther** (actual quote: From Luther's Works, Volume 25: "God also converts those whom He converts with a view of His goodness. And this is the only way to achieve a true conversion, namely, through love and kindness. For he who is converted through threats and terror is never truly converted as long as he retains that form of conversion. For fear makes him hate his conversion.")

"The best defense against bad literature is a healthy diet of good literature." – **Lewis** (*Experiment in Criticism*)

"Proud man would have died had not a lowly God found him." – **St. Augustine** (*Confessions*)

A Christian is one who has bowed twice--once in humble admission of his need, and once in gratitude to Almighty God for his act of love in Jesus Christ. – **Schaeffer**

Lean is better than luxurious. – **Palmer**

I tell no one anyone's story but his own. (Aslan) – **Lewis** (*The Horse and His Boy*)

You can't separate the word from the work (i.e. you can't separate what Christ said from what he did). – **Barth**

What we have is a total crisis, for which we need total help. – **Barth**

The line between good and evil falls not between peoples but goes right through the human heart. (paraphrase) – **Solzhenitsyn**

comparison of Emerson to "paint that doesn't stick to anything" (John Updike, in *The New Yorker*)

It is better to finally believe what at first you could not say than to say at first what you do not believe. -- ??

Prepare the child for the road, and not the road for the child. – **Chinese? or African?**

It takes an awful lot of evidence to go against the traditions of the early church. – **Palmer**

If I return evil for evil, then my foe has won a double victory over me: he has hurt me in the first place, and he has made me evil like he is. – **Luther**

Exercise yourself in grace. – **Luther**

"The mark of the Christian" – **Schaeffer** (The Church in the 20th Century?)

When we die we don't face inky abyss. – ??

Love is an event.

Anybody who has suffered does not play with the book of Revelation. (or Nobody who has suffered plays with the book of Revelation) – **Hanns Lilje** (The Last Book of the Bible)

...the Old Testament in anticipation, the New Testament in witness/fulfillment... -- ? Barth?

[Satan is] moral, personal will against the will of God at the cosmic level of creation. -- ?

"dripping, precious thing" quote (Lewis, Miracles)

"joy...that meaningful acceleration..." (Lewis, Screwtape Letters?)

if you don't do something about what you feel, you will lose the ability to feel (paraphrase, Lewis, Screwtape)

even though they wrote the line and smudged the line, you still were able to read it (W.H. Auden, referring to the imperfection of churches in passing on the Word, in poem "For the Time Being")
shock of recognition

John the Baptist was the greatest man of faith in the Bible, but also the greatest doubter. But he had faith in the midst of his doubts (idea, or paraphrase) – Thielecke

"When on the basis of what you know about Jesus Christ, you're willing to trust in his trustworthiness, then you're ready to become a Christian." – Dr. Robert Boyd Munger

"I only trust those who only trust God, and I do not believe in God. Try and sort that out." – Jean-Paul Sartre (Words: Reminiscences of My Life [autobiography])

"I've often thought what a love affair I might have had with God. I guess you could say I've played the game loser take all." – Jean-Paul Sartre (towards the end of his life)

an ever-increasing appetite for an ever-decreasing pleasure – C. S. Lewis (on money)

self-referential characters – Czeslaw Milosz, speech "The Erosion of Faith in America" (Nov 1988)

"ooze and slime and old decay" (not the exact quote) – C. S. Lewis (Miracles, ca. p. 116?)

quote about the part of a symphony that makes it all make sense – C. S. Lewis ("The Grand Miracle" in Miracles)

the quote about Christianity **and** ... (vegetarianism, etc.) – C. S. Lewis (Screwtape Letters)

Favorite words/phrases:

turbulent line

grand positive

enormous exception

living Center

convergence

God's good decision

upomeno (Greek:)

boundaried

resonates

great

grand

whimsical

marvelous

remarkable

wonderful
am I right?
profound
Notice:
Hey!
vintage
I'll never forget...
Think of it!
Can I tell you a story?
Do you believe that?
journeys of our lives
mellow
track with me
surprise gift-love of God (grace)
put your weight on the downhill ski
I love <so-and-so> (e.g. Martha, Barth, etc.)
wily (e.g. Caiaphas, Annas)

Favorite Christian authors/theologians:

C.S. Lewis
G.K. Chesterton
Blaise Pascal
Karl Barth
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Luther
Calvin
T.S. Eliot
Helmut Thielecke
Dorothy Sayers
Francis Schaeffer

Favorite other books, authors:

Dostoyevsky: Brothers Karamazov, Crime & Punishment
Victor Hugo: Les Misérables
Tolstoy: War & Peace
Huckleberry Finn
Lord of the Flies
Robert Frost
W.H. Auden
John Updike
Joseph Conrad: Lord Jim, Heart of Darkness
John Bunyan: Pilgrim's Progress

Favorite musicals:

Les Misérables
Miss Saigon
Fiddler on the Roof
Damn Yankees(?)
Phantom of the Opera
Cats
Sound of Music