

REFLECTION CARD

What is human existence really like ? The great philosopher Pascal wrote of what a mixed bag we are:

“Judge of all things, feeble earthworm, repository of truth, sink of doubt and error, glory and refuse of the universe! Who will unravel such a tangle? This is certainly ...beyond all human philosophy. Man transcends man...[T]he truth lies...in heaven, lying in the lap of God, to be known only in so far as it pleases him to reveal it...[H]ear from your master your true condition, which is unknown to you. Listen to God... It is not through the proud activity of our reason but through its simple submission that we can really know ourselves... [131]. It is in vain that you seek within yourselves the cure for your miseries. All your intelligence can only bring you to realize that it is not within yourselves that you will find either truth or good [Penses 199].

Since man transcends man’s reason, it is God who must reveal our nature to us. Thus the first step of inquiry can only take us to the brink of the second step – the need to submit to God which will allow us to see our true nature.

Which side of our nature and of life do you tend to see more – the broken, fallen, pessimistic side or the exalted optimistic side ? Why is this so ?

NOTE: This is an excerpt from “ How Then Shall We Live ? -An Analysis of the Spiritual Theology of Pascal’s Penses” by Pastor Langdon which is available at www.SouthRidgeWorship.com

“The First Rule of St. Benedict”

Adapted by L.B. Palmer from J. McQuiston who Adapted from St. Benedict
480 – 587 AD

The first rule is simply this:

Live this life

And do whatever is done

In the Spirit of Thanksgiving

Place at His Feet:

Your Desire for Certainty

Your Desire for Security

Your Desire to be Full

Your Anxiousness

Your Worries

Your Fears

And come to comfortable Rest

In the certainty that those

- Who participate in this life with an attitude of Thanksgiving,
- Who trust in the faithfulness of their Maker,
- Who humbly walk with their God -

Will receive the full promise.