

The Medicine of Metaphysics  
John Cuddeback, PhD, Christendom College  
BaconFromAcorns.com  
Some Quotations for Week Two from Pope St. John Paul II

- 1) "I appeal also to *philosophers*, and to all *teachers of philosophy*, asking them to have the courage to recover, in the flow of an enduringly valid philosophical tradition, the range of authentic wisdom and truth—metaphysical truth included—which is proper to philosophical enquiry. They should be open to the impelling questions which arise from the word of God and they should be strong enough to shape their thought and discussion in response to that challenge. Let them always strive for truth, alert to the good which truth contains." St. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Fides et Ratio* #106
- 2) Romans 1: 20: "Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse;"
- 3) "...by discoursing on the data of the senses, reason can reach the cause which lies at the origin of all perceptible reality. In philosophical terms, we could say that this important Pauline text [Rom 1:20] affirms the human capacity for metaphysical enquiry." #22
- 4) But, N.B. on the limits of natural, philosophical knowledge:  
"The results of reasoning may in fact be true, but these results acquire their true meaning only if they are set within the larger horizon of faith." #20
- 5) Yet, Theology needs Metaphysics:  
"The word of God refers constantly to things which transcend human experience and even human thought; but this 'mystery' could not be revealed, nor could theology render it in some way intelligible, were human knowledge limited strictly to the world of sense experience. Metaphysics thus plays an essential role of mediation in theological research. A theology without a metaphysical horizon could not move beyond an analysis of religious experience, nor would it allow the *intellectus fidei* to give a coherent account of the universal and transcendent value of revealed truth." #83
- 6) "If I insist so strongly on the metaphysical element, it is because I am convinced that it is the path to be taken in order to move beyond the crisis pervading large sectors of philosophy at the moment, and thus to correct certain mistaken modes of behavior now widespread in our society." #83