



The Knowledge of God

THE LIFE-GIVING DISTINCTIVE OF A
MASON EDUCATION

LIVING EDUCATION RETREAT - 2018

“I read about this trail three years ago in a magazine and the article told about the beautiful trail, how well marked it was, that it was cleared out and that there were shelters at the end of a good day’s hike. I thought it would be a nice lark.”

Emma Gatewood, 1955

“Grandma Gatewood’s Walk” by Ben Montgomery, p. 181

“She first laid eyes on the trail in a doctor’s office back home, inside a discarded National Geographic from August 1949, and the nineteen-page spread with color photographs was a window to another place.

She read that the ‘soul-cheering, foot-tempting trail’ was as wide as a Mack truck, that food was easy to come by, and that trailside shelters were plentiful and spaced within a day’s walk from one another.

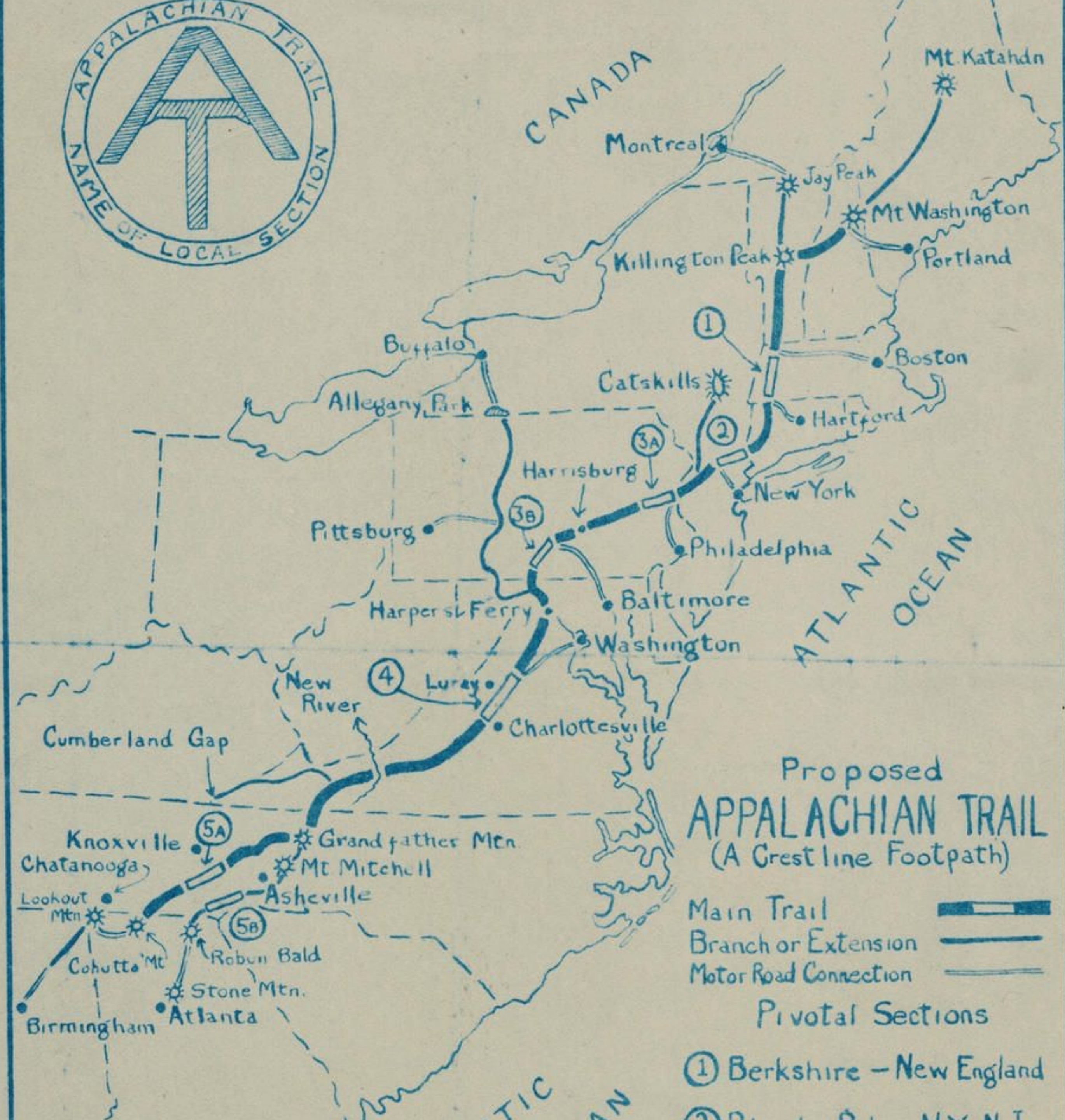
‘The Appalachian Trail, popularly the A.T., is a public pathway that rates as one of the seven wonders of the outdoorsman’s world,’ the article gushed. ‘Over it you may ‘hay foot, straw foot’ from Mount Katahdin, with Canada on the horizon, to Mount Oglethorpe, which commands the distant lights of Atlanta.’

The old woman had been captivated.”

“Grandma Gatewood’s Walk” by Ben Montgomery, pp. 15 - 16

“That which has become the dominant idea of one person’s life, **if it be launched suddenly at another, conveys no very great depth or weight of meaning to the second person**—he wants to get at it by degrees, to see the steps by which the other has travelled.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol. 1, p. 97



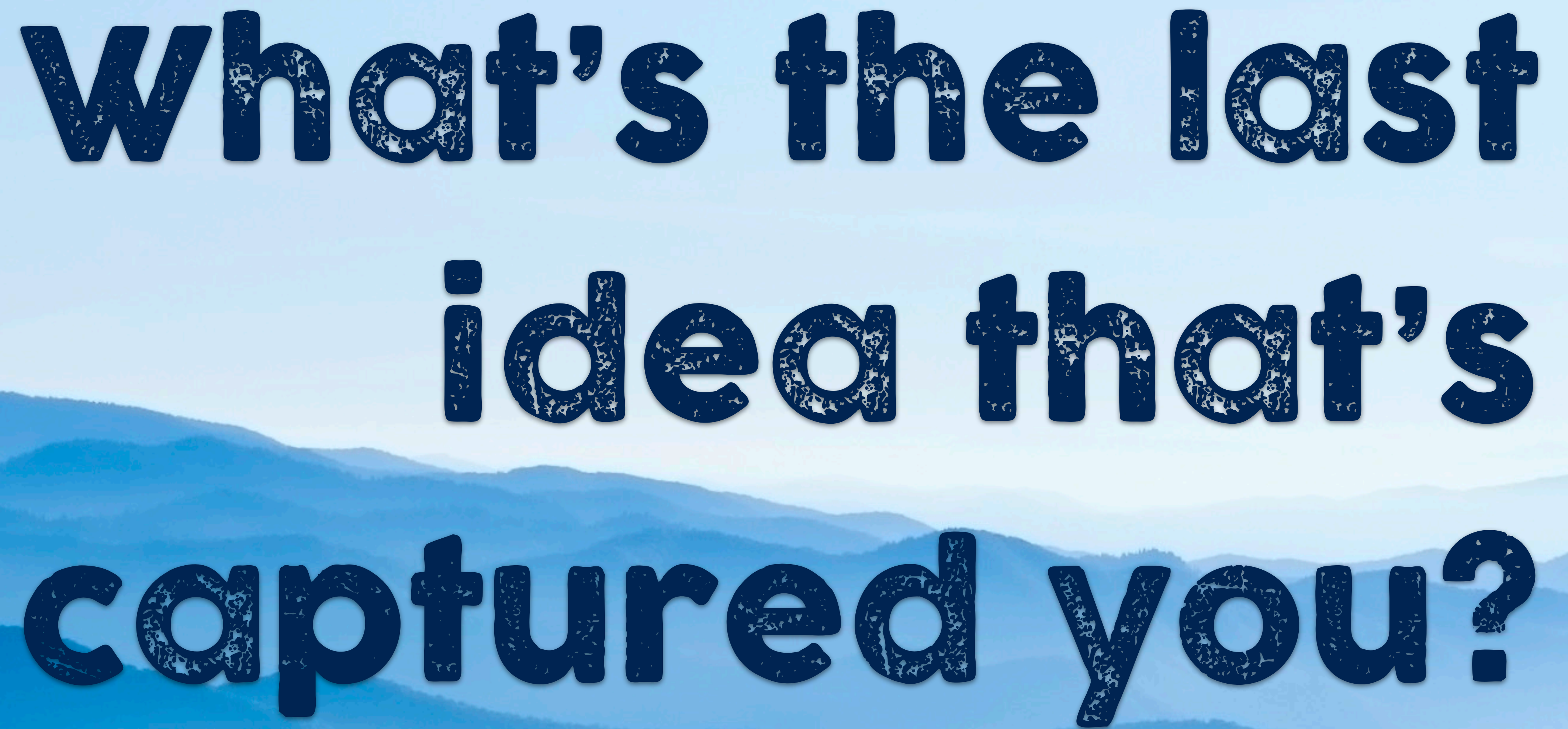
Proposed
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
(A Crestline Footpath)

- Main Trail
- Branch or Extension
- Motor Road Connection

Pivotal Sections

① Berkshire - New England

② Boston - N.Y. - N.J.

The background of the image is a scenic landscape of rolling mountains and evergreen trees, all rendered in a monochromatic blue color scheme. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth, and the trees are silhouetted against the lighter sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**What's the last
idea that's
captured you?**

“...THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
IS THE PRINCIPLE
KNOWLEDGE, AND THE
CHIEF END OF EDUCATION.”

Charlotte Mason,

Preface to the Volumes

The background of the image is a monochromatic blue-tinted landscape. It features a series of rolling mountains in the distance, with some evergreen trees visible in the foreground and middle ground. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

**I believe this “knowledge
of God” is the
captivating idea our
children need.**

“The destiny of the child is ruled by his parents, because they have the virgin soil all to themselves. The first sowing must be at their hands, or at the hands of such as they choose to depute. ... What do parents sow? Ideas. We cannot too soon recognize what is the sole educational seed in our hands, or how this seed is to be distributed.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 2, p. 29

The background of the image is a scenic landscape of rolling mountains and evergreen trees, all rendered in a monochromatic blue color scheme. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth and distance. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible against the lighter blue background. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

**The main
place we go is
Scripture.**

“There are several ways by which the knowledge of God first comes to us; we may be struck by the words, acts, and looks of those who know—a very convincing lesson. A little plant of moss, the bareness of a tree in winter, may, as we have seen, awake us to the knowledge; or, dealings of strange intimacy with our own hearts, visitings of repentance and love, sweet answers to poor and selfish prayers, tokens of friendship that we can never tell, but most surely perceive, are all steps in this chief knowledge.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 4, book 2 p. 184

“The first time I saw Brother Lawrence was upon the third of August, 1666. He told me that God had done him a singular favor in his conversion at the age of eighteen.

That in the winter, seeing a tree stripped of its leaves, and considering that within a little time the leaves would be renewed, and after that the flowers and fruit appear, he received a high view of the providence and power of God, which has never since been effaced from his soul. That this view had perfectly set him loose from the world, and kindled in him such a love for God that he could not tell whether it had increased during the more than forty years he had lived since.”

Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God” p 13

“...but perhaps we fail to realize that...nature teems with teaching of the things of God, that every leaf on every tree is inscribed with the divine Name, that the myriad sounds of summer are articulate voices, that all nature is symbolic, or as has been better said, is sacramental. Realizing the close correspondence and interdependence between things natural and things spiritual, that God nowhere leaves Himself without a witness, and that every beautiful form and sweet sound is charged with teaching for us...”

Charlotte Mason, *Scale How Meditations*, p. 61





“Let all our employment be to know God; the more one knows Him, the more one desires to know Him. And as knowledge is commonly the measure of love, the deeper and more extensive our knowledge shall be, the greater will be our love; and if our love of God were great, we should love Him equally in pains and pleasures.”

Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God” p 63

“The Bible teaches the Knowledge of God.—But, as the friend listens to the voice, pores over the written word of his friend, so the lover of God searches the Bible for the fuller knowledge he craves. It matters very little to him that one manuscript should be superimposed upon another; that such and such passages should be ascribed to other authors than those whose name they bear; that not only the history, but the legends and myths, of the Jewish nation have found their way into the Book; that science disproves here, and history contradicts there: these things may be so, or may not be so. He is willing and thankful that science and scholarship should do their work, that the laws of textual criticism should be applied; at the same time, he sees a thousand reasons for caution and reserve in accepting the latest dicta of the critics.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 4, book 2 p. 184

“It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It’s the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. **Wonder can’t be packaged, and it can’t be worked up.** It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement.”

Eugene H. Peterson

“Everything that is
incomprehensible does
not cease to exist.”

Blaise Pascal, “Pensees”, p 72

Essential and Accidental Truth — As for whether such and such a narrative be a myth, or a parable, or a circumstance that has actually occurred, such questions do not affect the sincere mind of a child, because they have nothing to do with the main issues. It is quite well to bring before children, in the course of their Bible readings, whatever new light modern research puts in our way; the more we can help them in this way, the more vivid and real will Bible teaching become to them. But this grace, at any rate, the children may claim at our hands, that they shall not be disturbed by questions of authenticity in their Bible reading any more than in their reading of English history. Let them hear the story of the Garden of Eden, for example, as it stands; just so, we might even let them have the story of the man who went fishing and found a goodly pearl; and this, because the thing that matters in both stories is the essential truths they embody, and not the mere accidents of time and place.

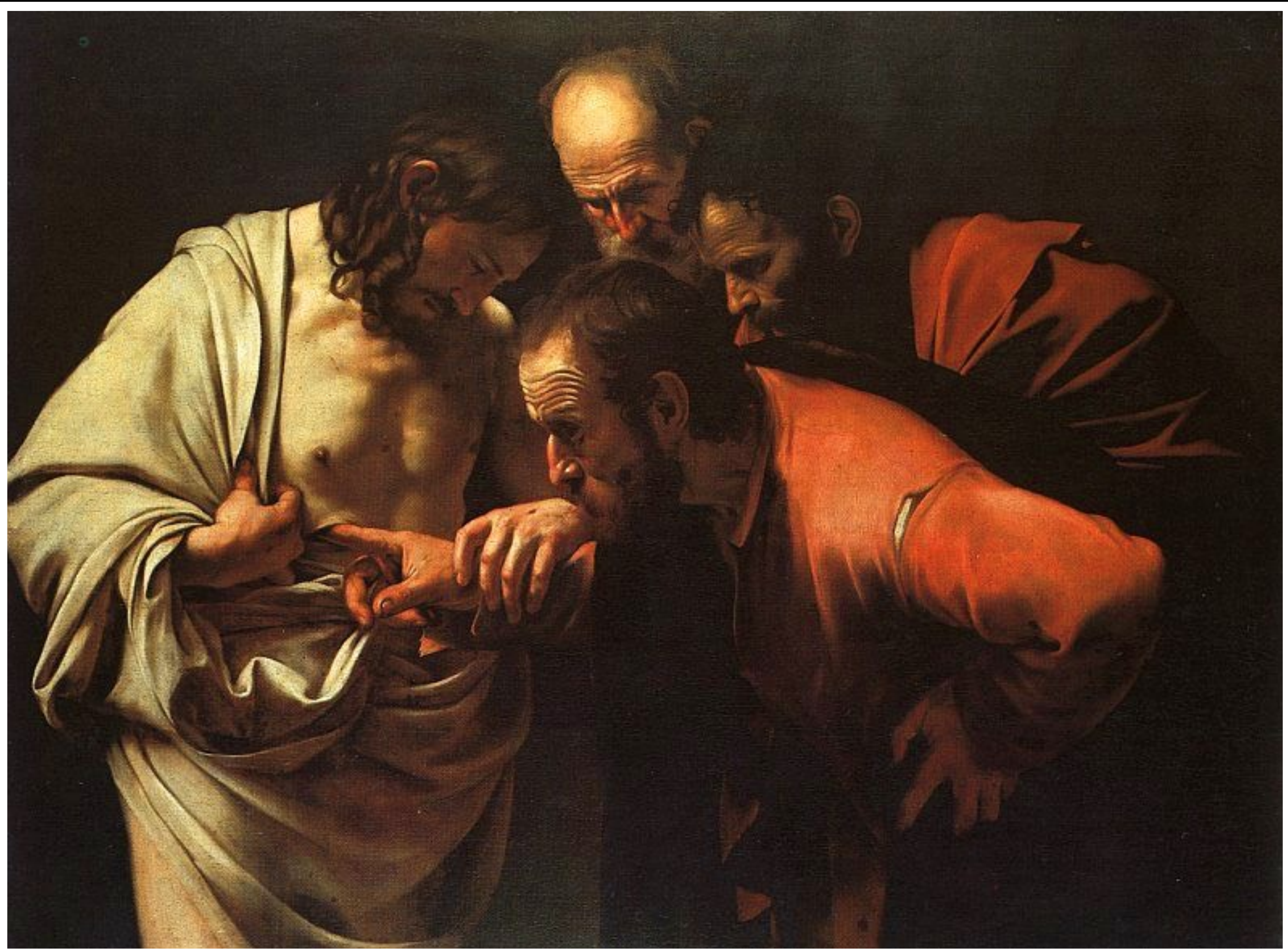
Charlotte Mason, Vol 1, p 249 – 250

“I thought it would be a nice lark. It wasn’t. There were terrible blowdowns, burnt-over areas that were never re-marked, gravel and sand washouts, weeds and brush to your neck, and most of the shelters were blown down, burned down, or so filthy I choose to sleep out of doors. This is no trail. This is a nightmare. For some fool reason they always lead you right up over the biggest rock to the top of the biggest mountain they can find. I’ve seen every fire station between here and Georgia. Why, an Indian would die laughing his head off if he saw those trails. I would never have started this trip if I had known how tough it was, but I couldn’t and wouldn’t quit.”

Emma “Grandma” Gatewood

**I often wonder if my
knowledge about God
has not become my
greatest stumbling block
to my knowledge of God.**

Henri Nouwen



John 20:24 - 29

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

“God manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” And what a barren and dry land should we dwell in if our spirits were narrowed to the limits of that which we can comprehend! Where we err is in supposing that mystery is confined to our religion, that everything else is obvious and open to our understanding. whereas the great things of life, birth, death, hope, love, patriotism, why a leaf is green, and why a bird is clothed in feathers—all such things as these are mysteries; and it is only as we can receive that which we cannot understand, and can discern the truth of that which we cannot prove, and can distinguish between a luminous mystery and a bewildering superstition, that we are able to live the full life for which we were made.

One thing we must hold fast—a clear conception of what is meant by Christianity. It is not ‘being good’ or serving our fellows: many who do not own the sovereignty of Christ are better than we who do. But the Christian is aware of Jesus as an ever-present Saviour, at hand in all his dangers and necessities; of Christ as the King whose he is and whom he serves, who rules his destinies and apportions his duties. It is a great thing to be owned, and Jesus Christ owns us. He is our Chief, whom we delight to honour and serve; and He is our Saviour, who delivers us, our Friend who cherishes us, our King who blesses us with His dominion. Christianity would only appear to be possible when there is a full recognition of the divinity of Christ. Let us cry with St Augustine:— “Take my heart! for I cannot give it thee: Keep it! for I cannot keep it for Thee.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 4, book 2 pp.201 - 202

The chief purpose of life, for any of us, is to increase according to our capacity our knowledge of God by all means we have, and to be moved by it to praise and thanks.

J. R. R. Tolkien

The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.

A. W. Tozer

2 Peter 1:3 – 8

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“...when we see that, in desiring God, we have set before us a great aim, requiring all our courage and constancy, then the Will rises, chooses, ranks itself steadfastly on the side of God; and, though there be many failings away and repentings after this one great act of Will, yet, we may venture to hope, the Soul has chosen its side for good and all.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 4, book 2 p. 182

2 Peter 1:12 - 15

12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Then Jesus told him,
“Because you have seen
me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have
not seen and yet have
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