**Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone**

*Knowing Truth in Theology and Natural Science*

**Introduction**

1. Without a conversation about / awareness of the role of epistemology, our society is not equipped to know what truthful public discourse means.
	* ‘Post-Truth’
	* fn Nancey Murphy on philosophy as ‘therapeutic’ (which is different from ‘gatekeeping’)
	* Unfinished agenda: the work of Lesslie Newbigin

**Primacy of belief in Jesus Christ**

1. Thomas Aquinas (see Marshall response to Kerr)
2. Newbigin and Polanyi
3. Marshall

**The importance of the particular and the personal**

1. Newbigin: Election and the Incarnation and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
2. McCormack on the trajectory of Barth: election and Christology
* ?cf Welker, God the Revealed: Christology
* LaMontagne on its epistemological implications
* Nancey Murphy on Critical Realism
* G Green review of PLM at end where he says “La Montagne’s clarification of Barth’s critical theological realism may help his contemporary readers to see that he is not some kind of irrational theological positivist, but it ought also to show them just how radical the claim of Christian theology really is.”
1. Marshall
2. Narrative Theology: issues with post-liberal theology; fn Arun Murphy on ‘Story Barthians’.
3. Williams, God With Us; Why Study the Past?

**Our dependence upon God for all acts of knowing and truth-telling**

1. Marshall: Trinity and Truth
2. The Faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ is the foundation for truth-telling. Compare and contrast with the work of:

i. Welker ed.

ii. Robert Russell’s Boyle lecture on Polkinghorne’s ontological indeterminism (and picked up in Rowan Williams’ Response) Plus see Plantinga p114 on Russell’s approach

**Conclusion**

* Incarnation and Resurrection of Jesus Christ; The Triune God; the time between Jesus’ Ascension and Return (epistemology is dependent upon both New Creation and Creation; fn I like Herbert McCabe’s statement – quoted by Paul Younger in The Way – in part but I think it suggests that new creation is less primary than creation; after the Cross and Resurrection, I think the reverse is the case, even though it does not seem that way to us.)
* Jesus’ Baptism and the Eastern Orthodox Tradition
	+ fn The Father’s Spirit of Sonship
* Christian apologetics?: epistemological assumptions of ‘apologetics’
	+ fn The experience of evangelism (Searching Issues used to precede Alpha but…)
	+ ‘apologetics’ in the NT: Jesus’ use of parables (fn the issue of veiling); Paul in Athens
* Shades of Grey? Right and Wrong and Relativism

**Epilogue: It is a great time for Christians to be scientists and involved in all kinds of cultural discourse**

1. Questions about evolutionary biology and quantum physics, and the Christian understanding of creation in the light of the Gospel.
	1. Stephen Meyer and Alvin Plantinga on Intelligent Design arguments and the relationship of science to naturalism/materialism
	2. Robert Russell on the relationship between theology and science
	3. ? move the Robert Russell Polkinghorne and Williams stuff here
2. Questions about human freedom and the Christian understanding of human agency in relation to the Gospel, in Trinitarian perspective.
	1. God’s sovereignty and human freedom (Newbigin, McCormack, Molnar…)
	2. The issues that contingency poses – good and bad models (? Christopher Knight)
	3. Human personhood in this perspective (?Bound to sin account of pride and sloth)
	4. Essay used in MPhil on the relationship between divine and human agency in Paul’s epistles
	5. ?move the eastern orthodox pneumatology work here
		1. McDonnell
		2. Weinandy
		3. Welker
		4. Tomlin