

Personal Statement

My faith in our Lord and Savior is one forged from personal and intellectual struggle. Like far-too-many kids in America today, I came from a deeply broken household. The difficult and troubling events that led up to my parents' divorce left me with a deep sense of inadequacy and worthlessness. Though I tried combatting this shame with moral and academic excellence, I could never believe that God could love a wretched sinner like me. Thanks to the patient guidance of my Sunday School teacher, however, I was led to several passages of Scripture that helped me see God's mercy and love towards those who trust in Christ Jesus. Though God is, indeed, the Judge of mankind's sin, He was also a Father to His children, and His Only-Begotten Son gave His life so that they might have life in Him.

Not long after this spiritual awakening, however, I left my hometown to pursue music performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. There, the notion of orthodox Christian faith was treated with considerable uneasiness, if not outright hostility. Although my foundation in Christ had barely been set, secular colleagues at UNCASA turned to me as an ambassador for the Christian faith. Sadly, my first attempts at Christian counsel and apologetics were far from successful. God, however, was working in the midst of my failures. The hours of personal time spent studying Christian apologetics, church history, and theology sparked a fire that then grew into a passion for ministry and theological education.

This new passion eventually led me to pursue a Master of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School as well as ordination in the Anglican tradition. During my time at Beeson, I was encouraged by several professors, most especially Dr. Gerald McDermott, to consider pursuing doctoral studies. At the time, however, I did not believe I had the discipline and wherewithal to endure the slings and arrows of a PhD program.

Since then, I have had a number of opportunities to teach, both in churches and in classroom settings. I currently serve as a deacon at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Madison, Mississippi. I also teach part-time at Jackson Classical Homeschool Program in Brandon, Mississippi. Both of these opportunities have made it clear that I not only love teaching, but that I also have a passion for advanced theological studies. In particular, I have taken great interest in the early Reformation thinkers, whose work bridges an often overlooked gap between the wisdom of the early Church Fathers and modern Protestantism. It is my prayer that the Davenant Institute would be a place for me to sharpen my skills and discipline as a scholar so that I can better share the wisdom of the Church with the next generation of faithful Christians. In a world that is ever obsessed with the nebulous notion of "progress," Christians need the wisdom of the historic Church in order to persevere through these strange and difficult times.