

*cannot constitute, that basic cognitive link. Put in the context of our discussion of Van Til, our point is that learning theory is logically prior to an account of logically sophisticated presupposing. And that is to say that an account of how we humans stock our very premises and presuppositions with factual content is logically prior to Van Til's account of presuppositional reasoning. In short, presuppositional reasoning must operate with factual content if it is to advance our knowledge, and Van Til leaves the acquisition of that content a total mystery!*

*Here is an extremely telling, but typical, declaration that exhibits Van Til's rationalism. Citing the Dutch theologian Herman Bavinck approvingly, Van Til insists that "without the concept of God [emphasis mine] as self-conscious, as self-existent, we could not know anything" (An Introduction to Systematic Theology, p.9).*

*It is the role of the concept of God that betrays Van Til's rationalism in this quotation. Van Til strenuously holds throughout his writings that our knowing anything at all radically depends on a concept! But there is monumental confusion here. Human knowing depends on a created, embodied (physically realized), competence that is systematically and interactively engaged with the environment. To say that we could not know anything without the concept of God, or the presupposition of God, is like saying we would be unable to tell (and hence have knowledge of) colors without the concept of electromagnetic radiation in its interaction with the brain. Electromagnetic radiation, coupled with the dynamics of the human optical system and brain, help explain what makes telling colors possible, but a child of five can very well get his colors right without so much as a clue about the structures and causal dynamics that facilitate this cognitive feat.*

*Van Til regularly confuses causal and structural issues of cognitive ability and cognitive competence with logical issues concerning systematic implication. To put Van Til's wording aright, his wording would have to be something like: 'Without God's designing our brains and nervous systems as he has, and*