



VAN TILLIAN Apologetics

May 29th, 2022 - Part 7

Jon Kaus

1 Showed how Wittgenstein's language games relate to our use of axioms.

2 Discussed A2-A4 and various objections relating to those axioms.

3 Deduced T1.

4 Responded to the "direct acquaintance" objection.

5 Discussed A5 and deduced T2.

T2

If one can demonstrate that an anti-Christian worldview is a sufficient foundation for knowledge, then one can demonstrate that the Bible \vdash falsehood.

A4

No one can demonstrate that Bible \vdash falsehood.

T3

No one can demonstrate that an anti-Christian worldview is a sufficient foundation for knowledge.

OBJECTION

Modern-Day Prophet

A6

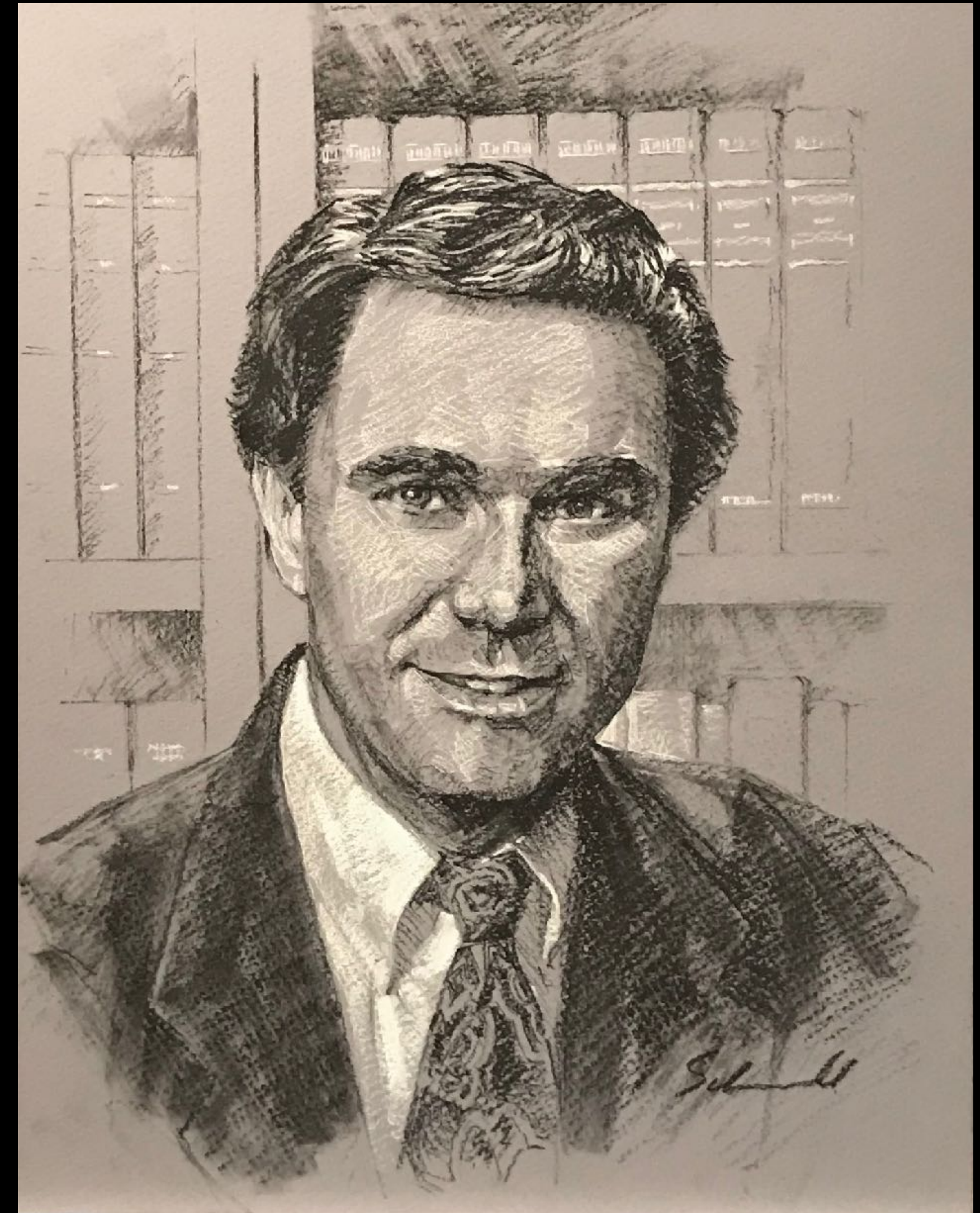
If Christianity is a sufficient foundation for knowledge and no one can demonstrate that an anti-Christian worldview is a sufficient foundation for knowledge, then Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

OBJECTION

Axiom 6 Could Be False

Unbelievers who have for the most part **abandoned rationality** (not desiring to make sense or think clearly) or have become indifferent to “giving reasons” for what they believe, have thereby **stepped outside** of the **circle of apologetical concern**.

Greg Bahnsen
Van Til's Apologetic, 484



A6

If Christianity is a sufficient foundation for knowledge and no one can demonstrate that an anti-Christian worldview is a sufficient foundation for knowledge, then Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

T1

Christianity is a sufficient foundation for knowledge.

T3

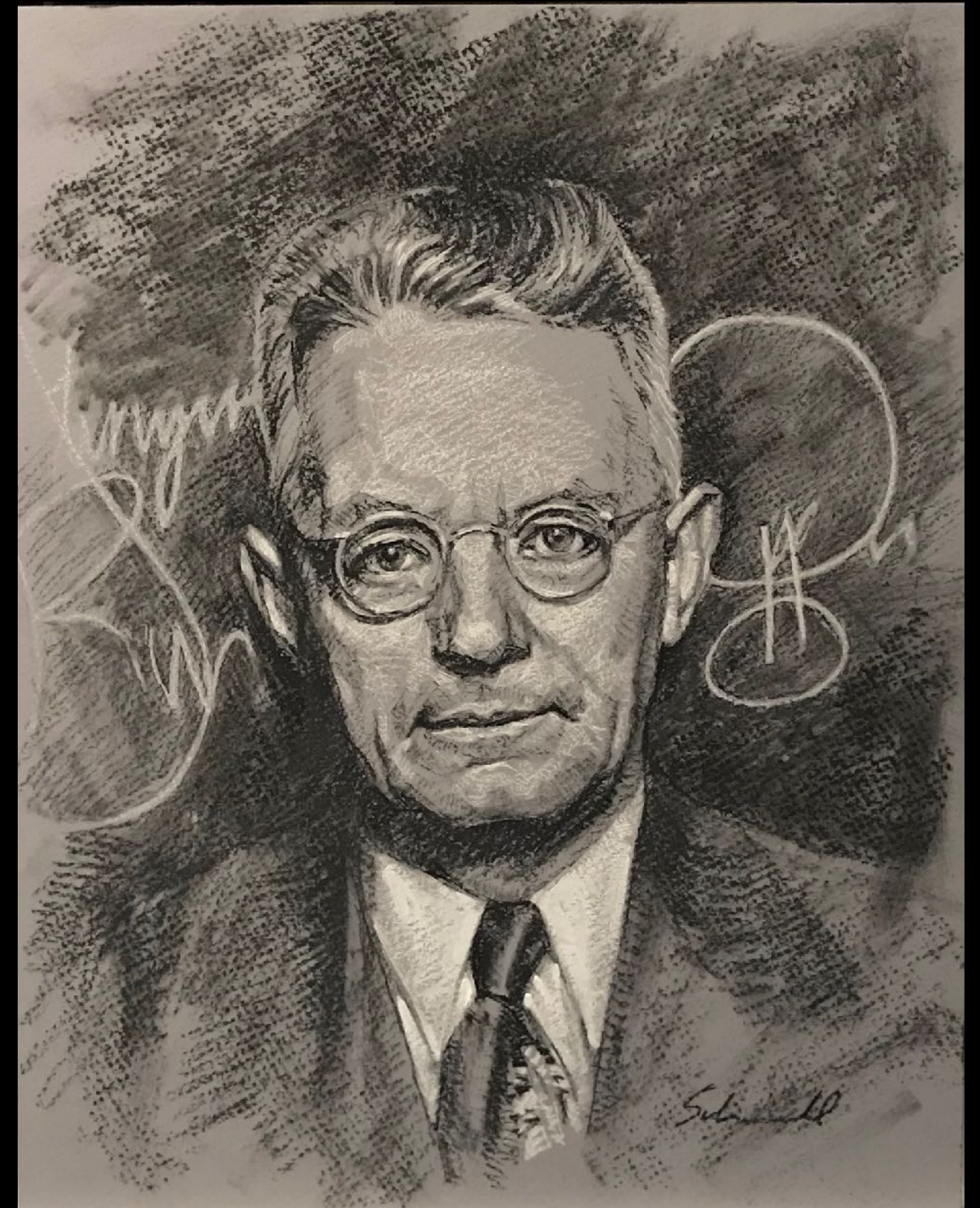
No one can demonstrate that an anti-Christian worldview is a sufficient foundation for knowledge.

T4

Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

If the triune God of Scripture did not exist and if He did not do what He says in Scripture He does, i.e. create and direct the whole course of history, the unbeliever would have no standing place in order to engage in his effort by his false systems to deny the existence and work of God.

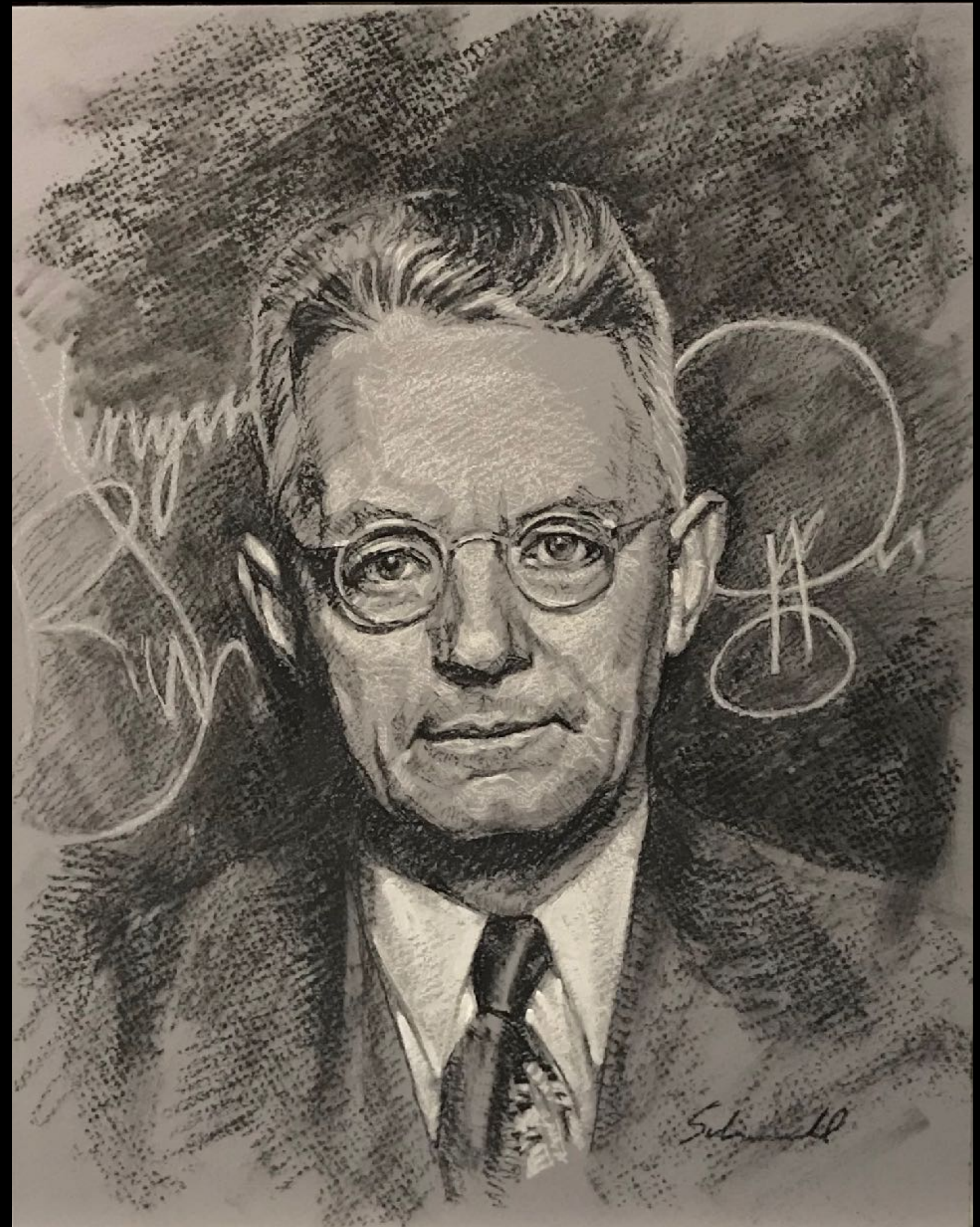
Cornelius Van Til
Toward a Reformed Apologetic, 17



It is but to say that **Christianity alone is rational**. It is but to say that if one leaves the foundation of the presupposition of the truth of the Christian religion one falls into the quagmire of the utterly irrational. **No intelligent predication is possible except on the basis of the truth, that is the absolute truth of Christianity.**

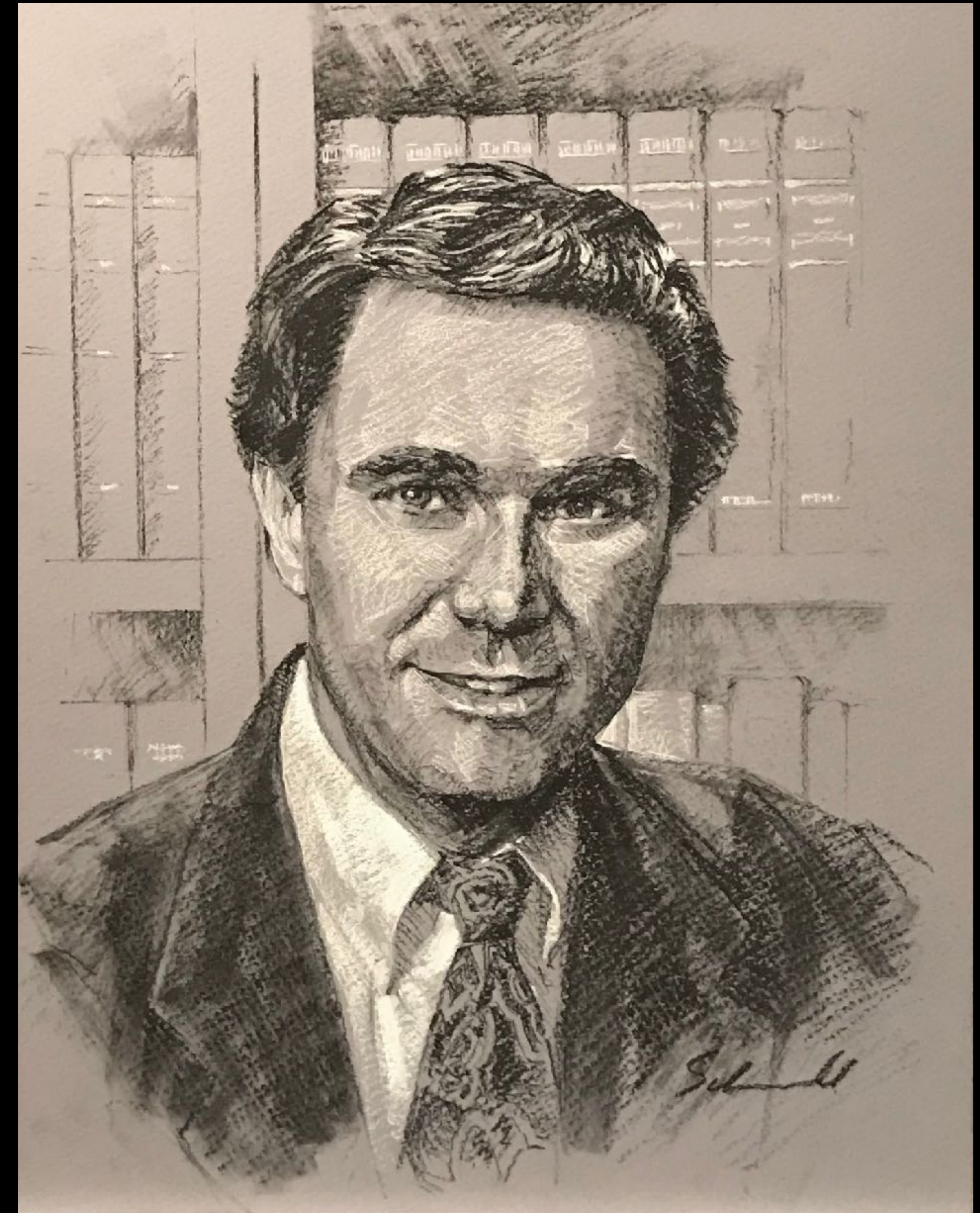
Cornelius Van Til

A Christian Theory of Knowledge, 252



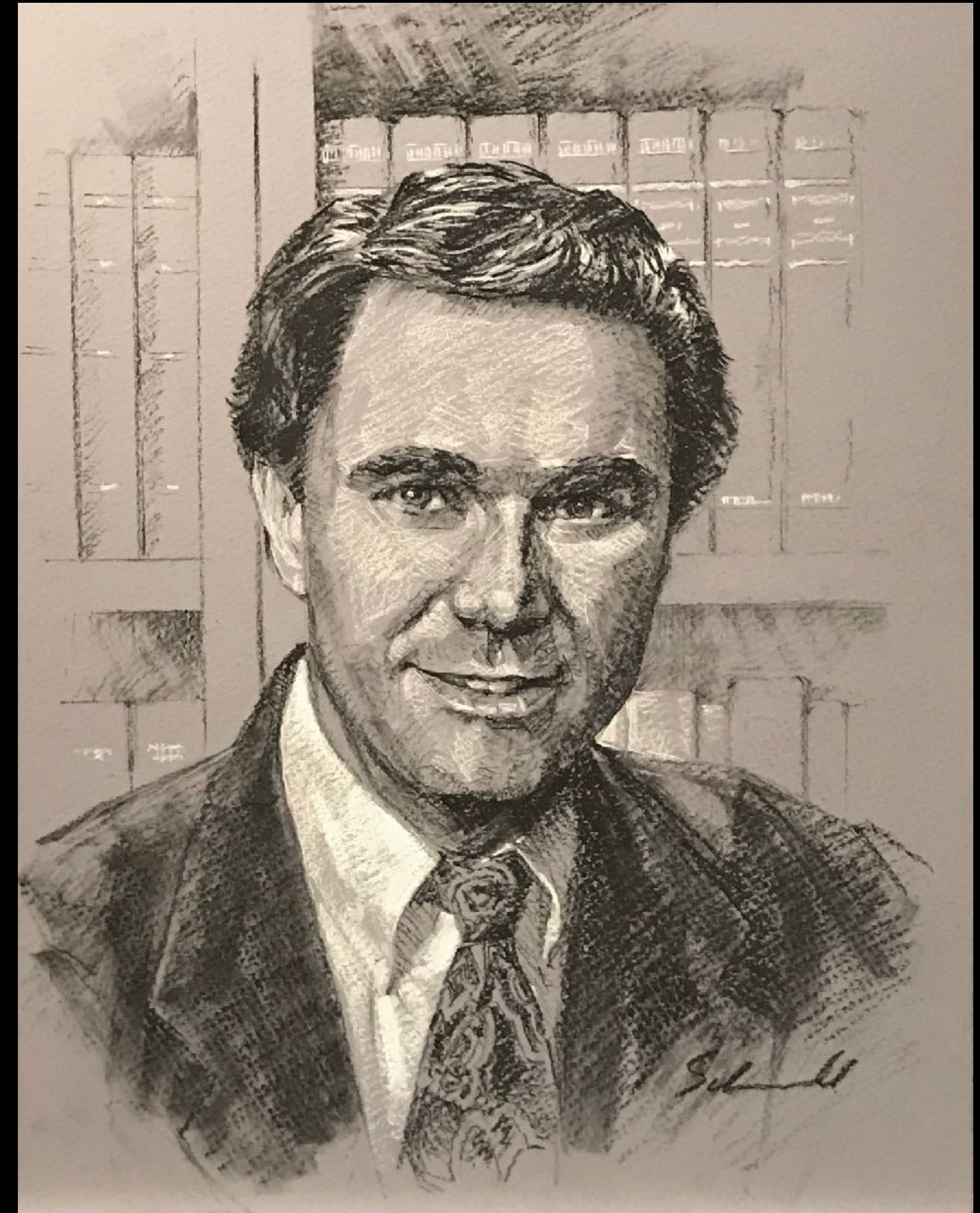
The presuppositional challenge to the unbeliever is guided by the premise that only the Christian worldview provides the philosophical preconditions necessary for man's reasoning and knowledge in any field whatever.

Greg Bahnsen
Van Til's Apologetic, 5



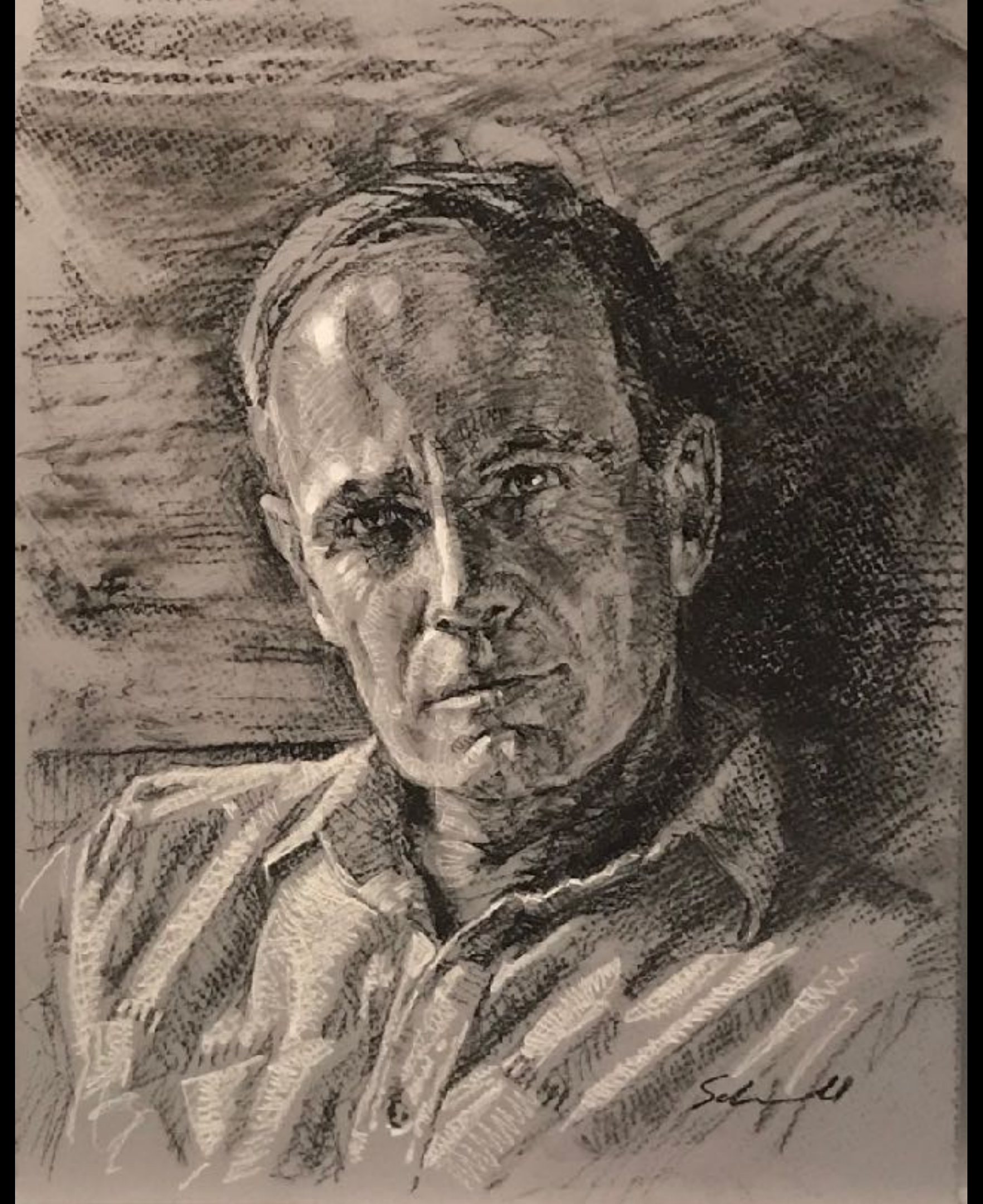
This is a key thrust in Van Til's challenge to unbelievers . . . Various types of claims made by the unbeliever assume "order" in human experience (logical, causal, moral, etc.), but the unbeliever cannot warrant any claims about reality as a whole.

Greg Bahnsen
Van Til's Apologetic, 116



That God needs no witness. Neither to Himself nor against. The truth is rather that if there were no God then there could be no witness for there could be no identity to the world. . . . Every breath taken that does not bless is an affront. . . . For nothing is real save his grace.

Cormac McCarthy
The Crossing, 158



T4

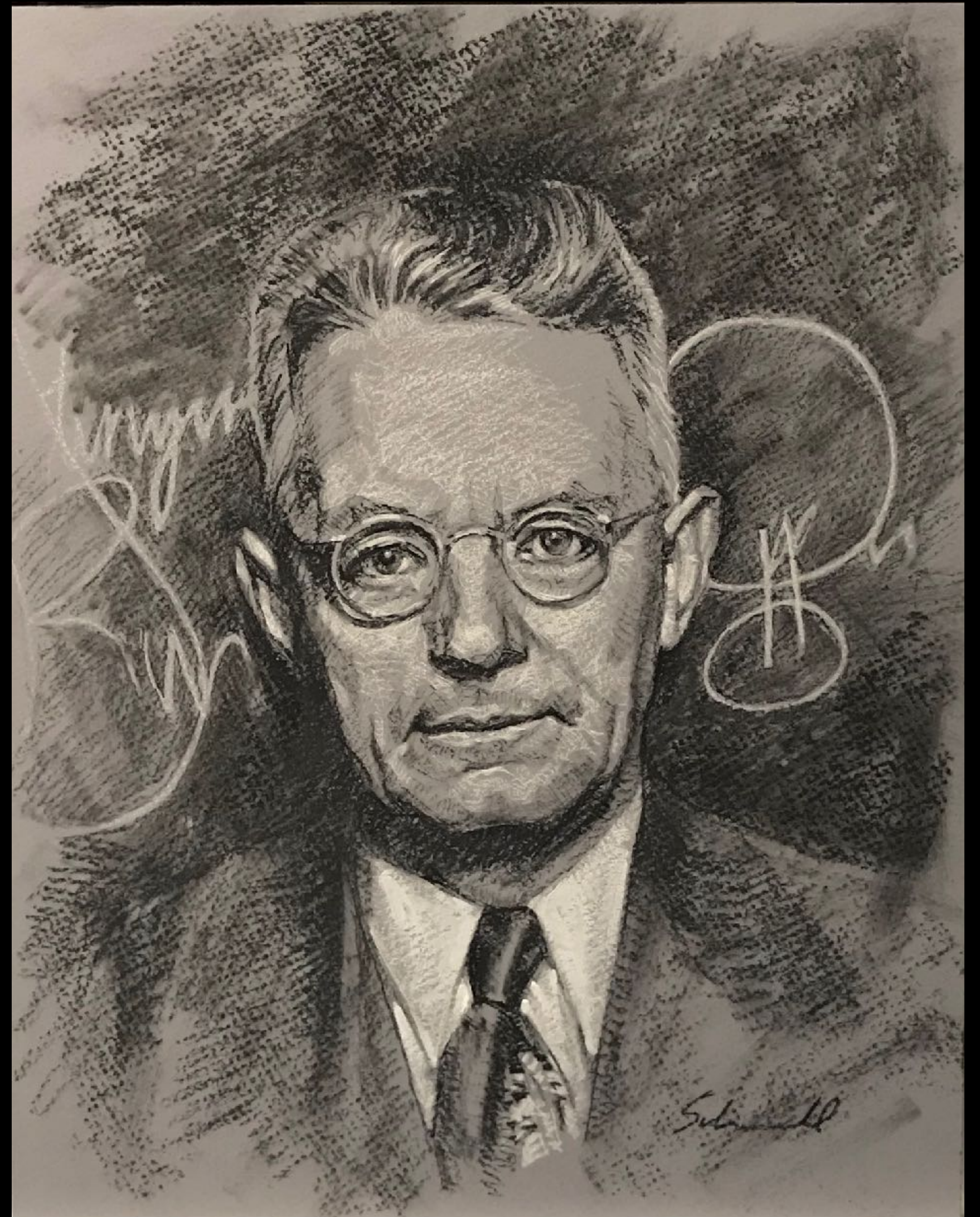
Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

A7

There is a person who has knowledge.

As Christians we cannot begin
speculating about knowledge
by itself. We cannot ask how
we know without at the same
time asking what we know.

Cornelius Van Til
The Defense of the Faith, 55



OBJECTION

Van Til Is Inconsistent

T4 Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

A7 There is a person who has knowledge.

T5 Christianity is true.

T4 Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

A7 There is a person who has knowledge.

T5 Christianity is true.

T4

Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

A7

There is a person who has knowledge.

T5

Christianity is true.

plain teachings of Christianity are in accordance with reality

OBJECTION

Inerrancy in All Doctrines

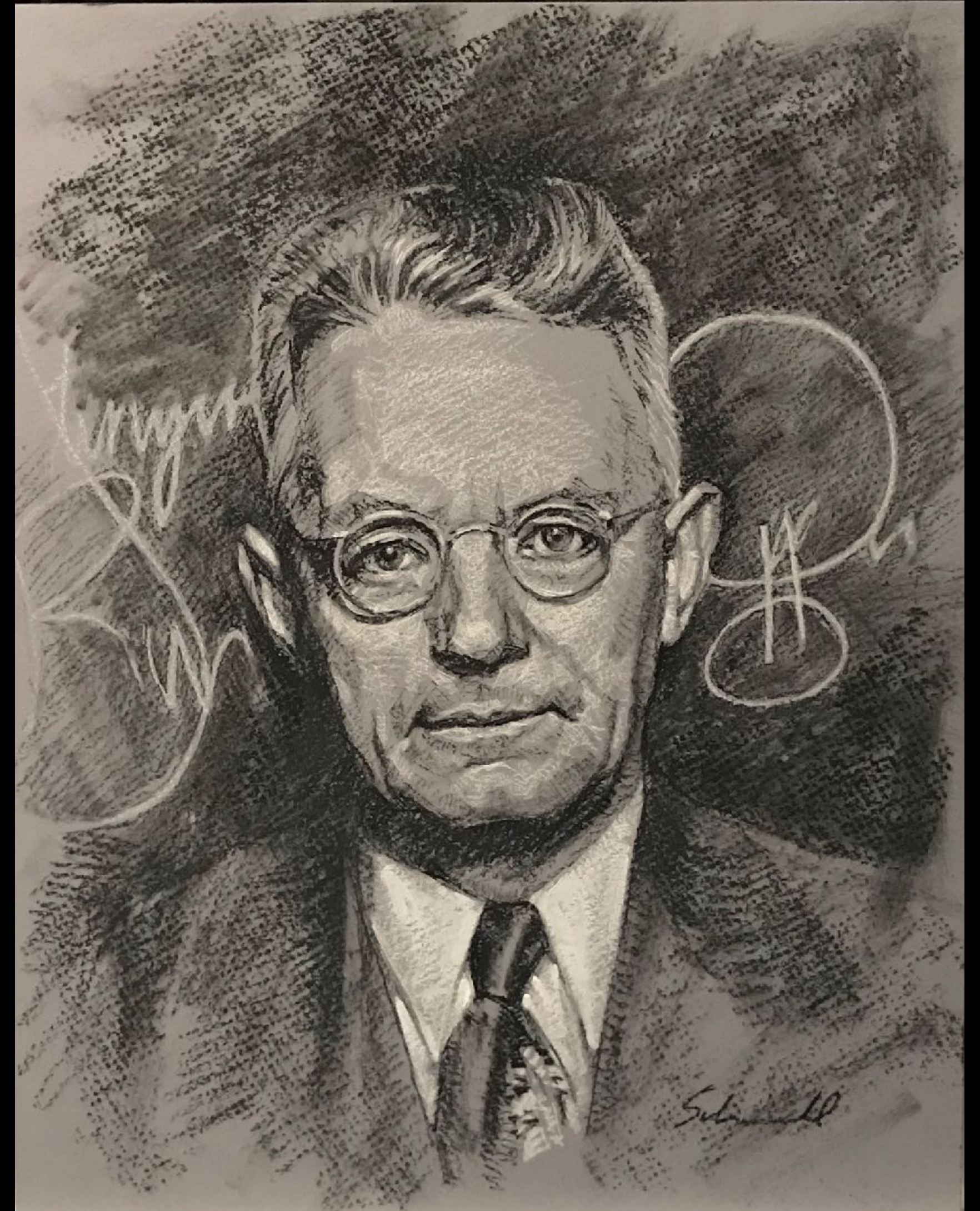
T4 Christianity is the only sufficient foundation for knowledge.

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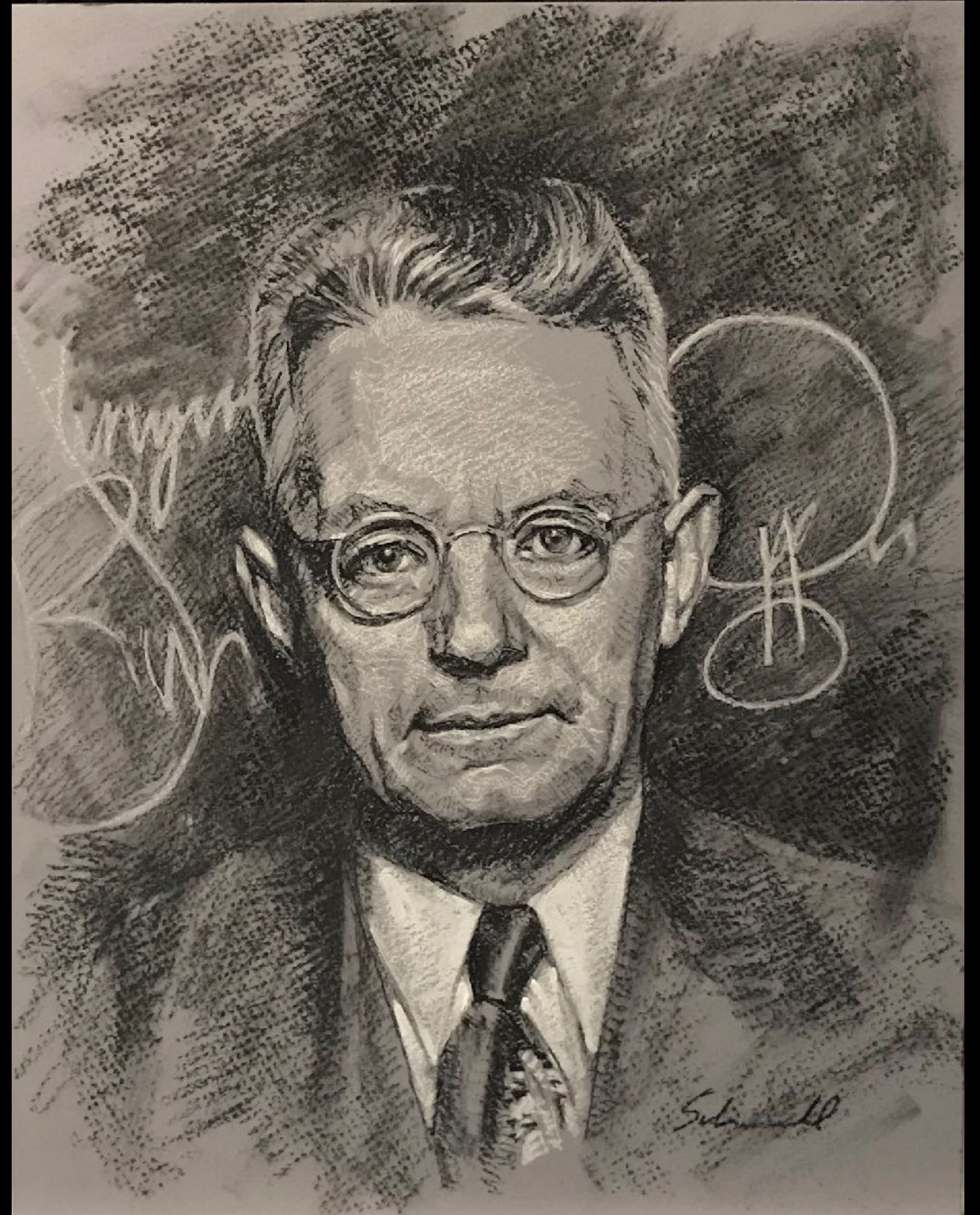
Thus there is **absolutely**
certain proof for the
existence of God and
the truth of Christian
theism.

Cornelius Van Til
The Defense of the Faith, 126



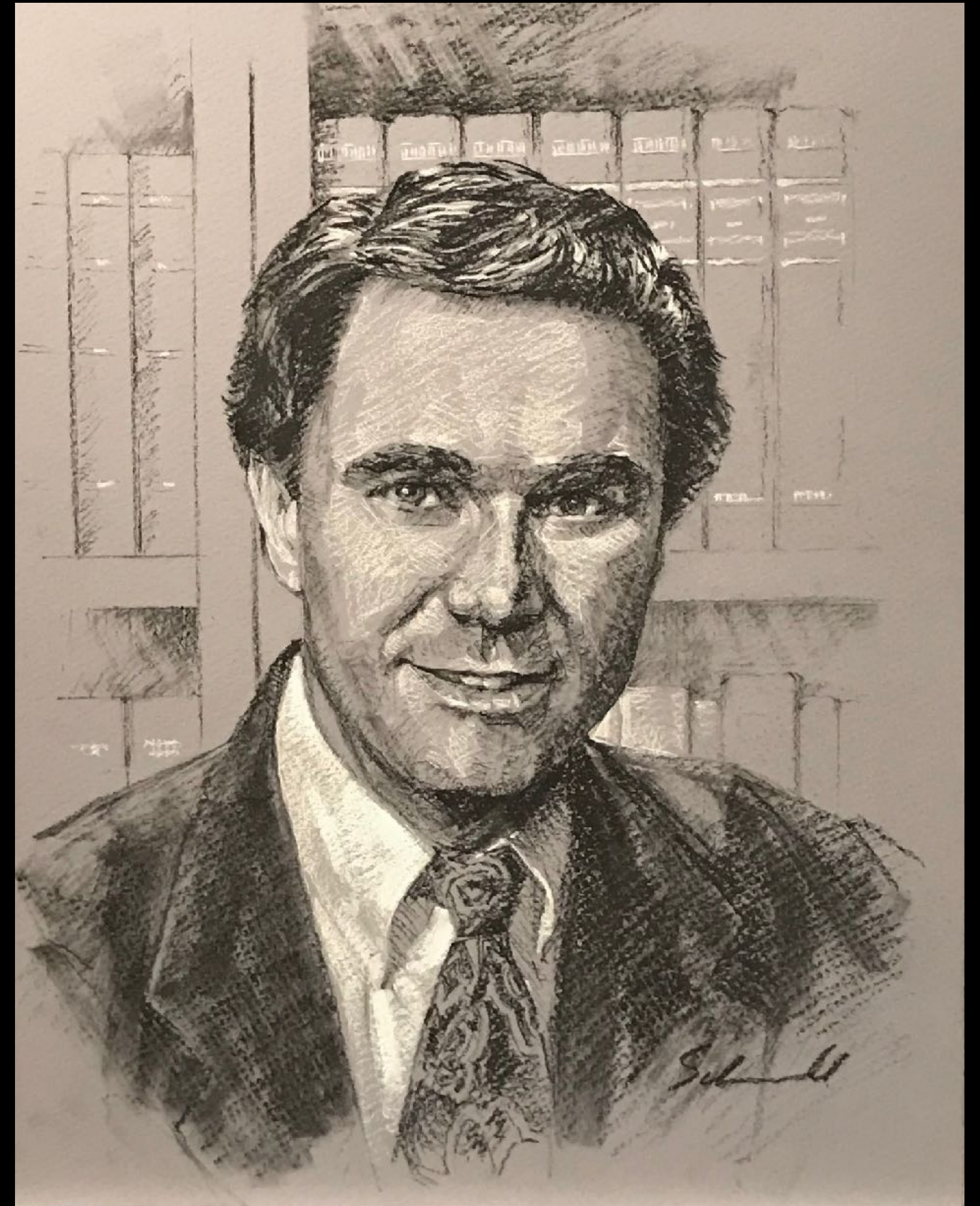
Christian Apologetics
must, accordingly, in
practice be a vindication
of the Christian world and
life view as a whole.

Cornelius Van Til
Apologetics, 23



It is this entire underlying
worldview that is being
defended, even when we
answer a more narrow,
particular attack.

Greg Bahnsen
Van Til's Apologetic, 30



1 Start with the Bible.

2 Basic principles (axioms) need to be consistent with the Bible.

3 Argument is sufficient for rational (epistemic) certainty.

4 Axioms are knowable prior to acknowledging the conclusion.

5 May not assume the truth of the conclusion as an axiom.

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Christianity is true
because without God's
love we are lost.

The world is meaningless if
Christianity is false, but the
world is not meaningless, so
Christianity must be true.

Knowledge has a home in the Christian interpretation of the world.

We cannot show knowledge to have a home in any other interpretation of the world.

Therefore, Christianity is the only home for knowledge.

And since man possesses knowledge, Christianity must be true.

