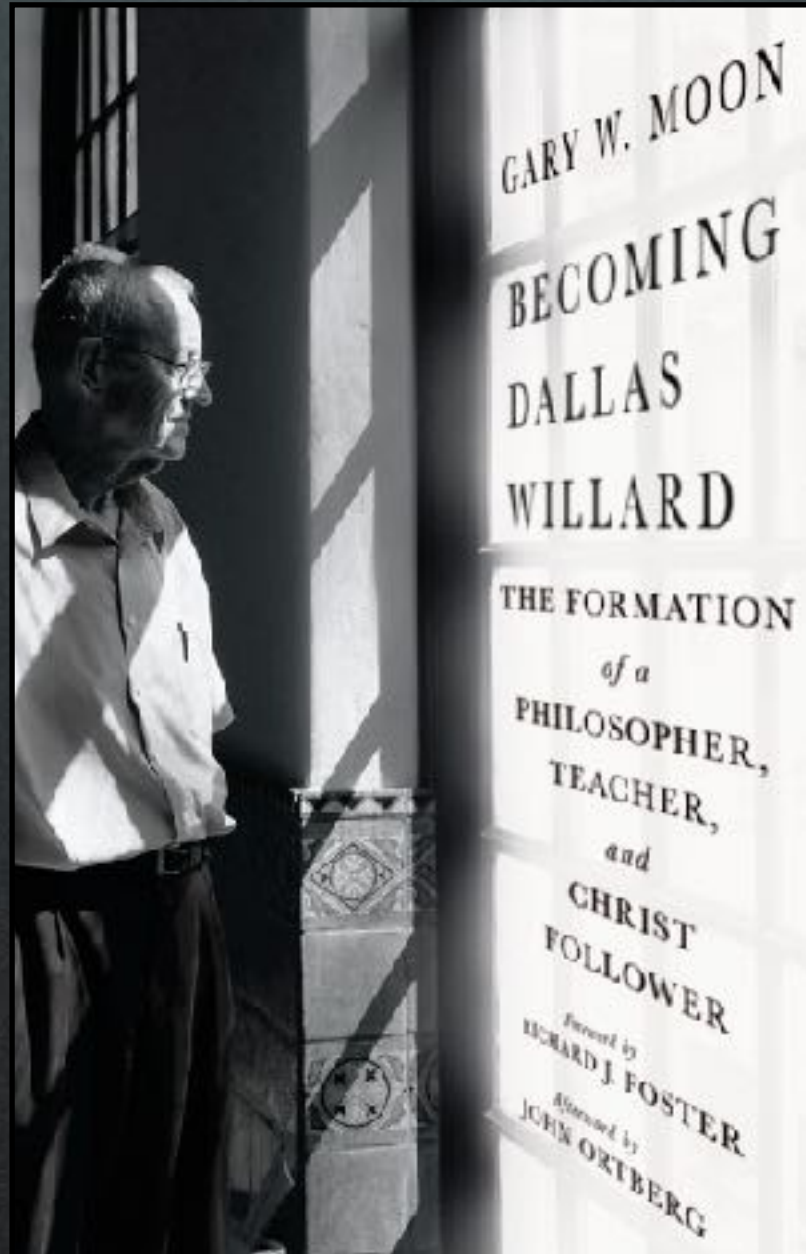


# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 8-9

### *Session 4 - “The USC Years”*





## SESSION 3 REVIEW - BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD



Baylor...the first place Dallas,

“...engaged in seriously intellectual work. Preaching, Teaching & Philosophy came together.”

*“I was almost terminally ignorant about God and soul.”*

*“When it came to spiritual growth, I honestly had nothing to say.”*

### **Voices of Influence @ Baylor & University of Wisconsin**

In Person - Boyd, Hay, Kilgore, Shuford

On Paper - Husserl, Moore, Stevens, Tozer, Yates





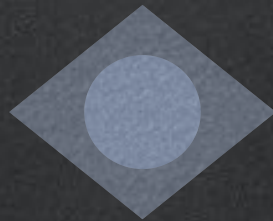
# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

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*Part Two*

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## THREE KINGDOMS



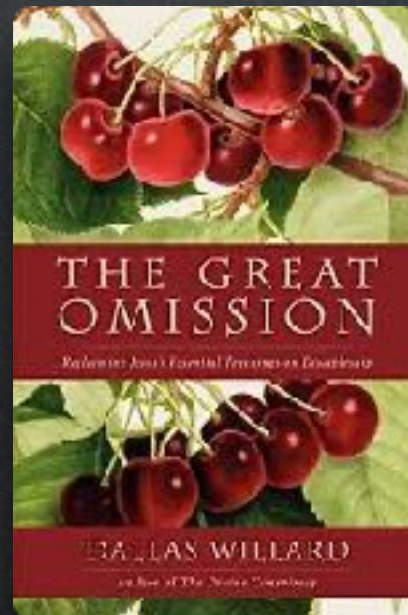


# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 8 - “Early Years at USC”

*“A saint burns grace like a 747 burns fuel on takeoff.”*

Dallas Willard, THE GREAT OMISSION





# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## **Chapter 8 - “Early Years at USC”**

*“I took the job at USC for the lighter teaching load. What USC offered would be more conducive to the writing I knew I wanted to do.”*

...instead of Jane’s preference - the University of Georgia.

They arrived in LA at the time of the Watts riots in 1965.  
They moved into a 2 bedroom with no A/C resulting in hot summer nights sleeping with the windows open.

*“We learned a lot about LA from hearing the Johnny Carson Show on the neighbor’s TV.”*

(110)



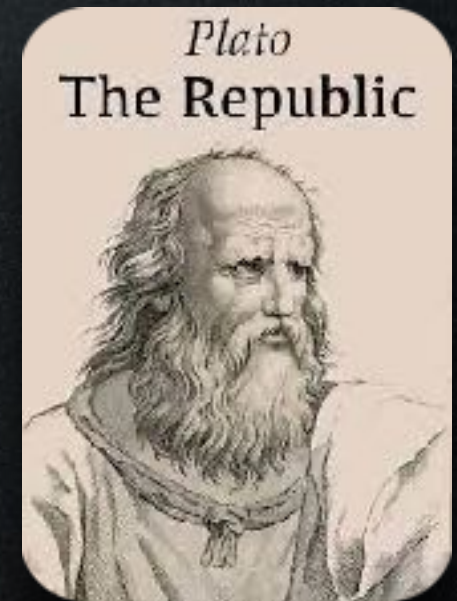


Dallas came very close to being rejected by USC.

*“I had read in Dallas’ materials his treatment of Plato’s Republic. It was one of the most meaningful handlings I had ever encountered. I still remember one of the lines:*

*‘The Republic is really a dialogue about soul.’  
He was absolutely right.”*

*“This man brings quite a different approach to how you treat our colleagues. The hiring of Dallas was the best thing that happened at USC in my entire time there.”*



Kevin Robb, USC Department of Philosophy  
- worked with Dallas for 46 years.

(111)





In memory of Dallas Willard

*September 4, 1935 - May 8, 2013*

Beloved Professor of Philosophy (1965-2012)

"You cannot 'opt out' of having a worldview.

You can only try to have one that most accords with reality,  
including the whole realm of facts concerning what is genuinely good.  
The four questions any worldview must answer are:

What is reality?

Who is well-off?

Who is truly a good person?

How does one become a truly good person?



# Opposing 20th Century Approaches of Philosophy

## *Analytic vs. Continental*

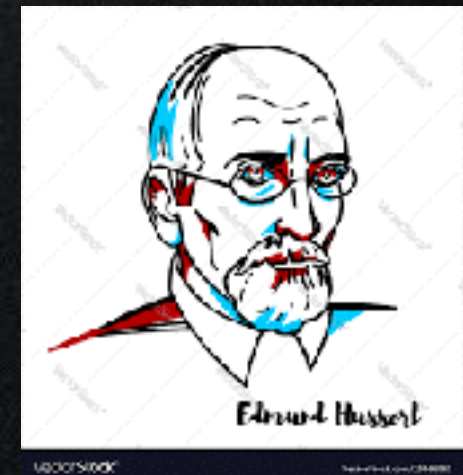
Early 20th Century = Natural Sciences

Softer Sciences - Become 'scientific' or be marginalized by the scientific naturalism coming to dominate Western culture and its institutions.

“Immediate Experience”

Obscure Subjectivity vs. Logical Objectivity

Re-enter Edmund Husserl - Experience can secure the “objectivity of knowledge”.



USC was shifting toward Analytic Philosophy. Knowledge and Goodness were about to go through a painful divorce.

(113-115)



# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 8 - "Early Years at USC"

### The Willard Farm

They moved "out of the smog" to rural Chatsworth 40 miles north of USC with a breathtaking view of a beautiful lake...the closest thing to rural Missouri they could find in Southern California.

They lived there for 46 years.

...an "early attic and late basement" decor style.

*"To say that Dallas & Jane are not materialistic is like saying the Pope doesn't date much."*

John Ortberg (116)



# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## **Chapter 8 - “Early Years at USC”**

### **His USC Office Under the Stairs**

*“You thought you were in a closet. There was not enough room for three people and there were stacks of books everywhere. The place reeked of an old 13th Century philosophy professor’s office.”*

JP Moreland

*“He was not cognizant of how he decorated his office or himself.”*

Greg Jesson

*“Dallas never made you feel that you were interrupting or taking him away from anything more important than the conversation he was having with you. You always had his full attention.”*

USC Student



# BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD

## Chapter 8 - “Early Years at USC”

Dallas often lectured while smoking rum soaked cigars.

He kept this a secret from Jane until he forgot himself once while standing in line with her at the grocery store, and, being a professor, he absent-mindedly tossed a pack in their cart.



Dallas never mentioned his religious convictions in the classroom. But for those who knew what they were looking for, especially during his early days at USC, “the preacher” would sometimes slip in.



*“Do you believe in God?” a student asked.*

*Dallas said, “Well, if I told you, what would you know then that you don’t know now that would help you know what to believe?”*

He was down-to-earth and free of BS. He often used three cows: Bessie, Bossy & Buttercup.

Philosophy would help students “find a basis in knowledge for action.”

Dallas’ heart was like a homing device for those who were experiencing deep pain and suffering.

(121-123)





## **“BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD” - CH. 8**

Dallas moved to LA but brought his heritage with him.

He was at home in the hills and with his friends like Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas.

For Dallas, the notion of knowledge and reality are limited to the measurable and visible world was the single, most destructive idea in existence.

He seemed to have all the answers and a heart that gravitated to those experiencing pain.





# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 9 - “King and Queen of Campus”

Dallas & Jane in the “Faculty in Residence” program.

*“The students are so honoring and accepting, we feel like King & Queen.”*

1967 - National Danforth Associate

1976 - Blue Key National Honor Fraternity’s “Outstanding Faculty Member”

1976-1977 - USC Associates Award “Excellence in Teaching”

1982-1985 - Philosophy Department Chair

1984 - USC Student Senate “Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year”

*“The professor must answer the question, What good am I doing for the student as a total person with this course? He must then make the answer to this question clear to his student.”*







Dallas speaking of his education  
and teaching at USC

*"Scripture & Ministry" Interview*

Carl Henry Center Interview, 2010

[0:01:20 - 0:07:15]



# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 9 - “King and Queen of Campus”

Like Husserl, Dallas believed it is possible to have direct experience with a mind independent world that transcends barriers of language, culture, time, and even visibility. But not all of his colleagues in the department would agree.

*“It is what we assume to be real and valuable that governs our attitudes and actions.”*

Dallas had concern about what is good, beautiful and true and big questions addressed by Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant...the genuinely enduring questions.

(129)



# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 9 - “King and Queen of Campus”

The invisible things, like the Kingdom of Heaven, are out there and are real (metaphysical realism), and they can be grasped, stepped into, and interacted with, and learned from as they really are (epistemic realism.)

*“Do you think Jesus can walk up to you?”*

“When you pray, Jesus will walk right up to you and he will listen to you.” Dallas Willard

(131)





# **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

## Chapter 9 - “King and Queen of Campus”

*“Dallas’ views are just so hard for people to grasp. And his views were out of step with what most in mainstream contemporary philosophy believe. Plus, he did not have the celebrity flair and was so humble.”*

*Dallas struggled to feel that he belonged and whether his work would be remembered in the field.”*

Greg Jesson

It could be this self-doubt contributed to his workaholism.



(137-138)



## **“BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD” - CH. 9**

Becoming a man without self-ambition for self-promotion.

Before, during, and after his time at USC, the strongest impression on his mind has always been the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. He saw that Jesus provided answers for classic big picture questions about life that broke the horns of the dilemma of either-or and both-and.

Dallas went to the University “with God”  
And as predicted, the church remained open to him.





## **“BECOMING YOU”**

How has the Christlike, selfless, non-ambitious nature of Dallas Willard influenced me?

What am I driven to do or be to offset the pain or absence in my past?

Does Jesus walk up to me when I pray?

Do I like elephants?





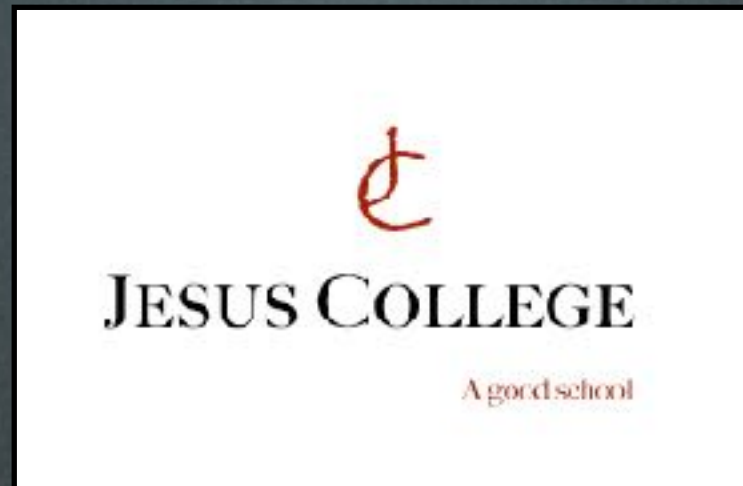
## **BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD**

### **Next Session #5**

Chapters 10 - "Formation at Home"

Pages 141 - 158





Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns  
*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
*“Training to be proficient in willing the good”*



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