

The Lord's Day Evening

October 8, 1944

**"I Believe in God"
Scripture Lesson – Isaiah 40**

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Introduction

1. Resume of previous sermon
 - a. Importance of Creed
 1. Makes a difference what a man believes
 - b. Used Apostles Creed to show what a man should and can believe
2. I believe
 - a. A personal faith
 1. Mrs. Kennedy in Port Gibson lost husband and then son and Jewess said after Mrs. Kennedy left drug store I wish I had her faith.
 - b. Hope I can help you to have a great practical faith in great truths of Christianity.
 - c. These beliefs are not for mere speculation and scientific study. They have a great practical value.
 1. Bill Matthews told me it was difficult to find a chemical engineer who had any value to him because so many of them would come running to him and enthusiastically tell him what they had found in their experiments. He said he asked well what value does it have? Will it make any money? And so often they answered, "No, but it was interesting."
 2. Far too many people come to a study of the great doctrines of Christianity as these chemists went to laboratory – simply to study them because they are interesting. I want us to come to them and find what they mean not as a matter of interest but because they have real value in one's life and conduct.
3. Beliefs come from several sources
 - a. Logic
 - b. Experience
4. I would like if I can to show you the logic of these beliefs and then have you leave the church each Sunday evening to go out and have a great experience of these truths.

I. I Believe in God

1. We believe in God because it is logical and reasonable to believe in Him.
 - a. God made us for Himself and surely we would not expect Him to hide Himself so that one could not believe in Him, nor would we expect Him to make that demonstration so hazy and obscure that one who wished to believe in Him could not logically do so.
 - b. Many take refuge in statement God cannot be proven.

1. Dean Inge says there are many whose souls – their whole selves – tell them to believe and many of them in a sense long to believe, but they fear the implications of such truths and so take refuge in the statement, “It cannot be proven.”

2. Well if men shut their minds and will not accept the conditions for proof then nothing can be proven.

2. Logical proof of God.

a. See what is known as casual argument. From fact everything must have a cause or power behind it.

1. From “The Faith We Live By” – Douglass – pages 37-38

“Common sense, entirely apart from revelation leads us to certain rather definite conclusions about the existence and nature of God. The presence of a well-functioning universe round about us leads us to believe, on the basis of common sense, that there must have been a first cause or a creator of this order. Napoleon on his Egyptian expedition was listening one evening to the learned discussion of certain philosophers whom he had taken with him to study the ancient cultures. They were discussing the nature of the created universe, and the consensus of opinion was that it was unnecessary to assume a creator in order to account for things as they are. This could all be accounted for, they maintained, by the working of natural laws. Pointing to the starry heavens above, Napoleon asked, “Gentlemen, who made these?” His robust common sense led him to sweep aside the tortuous reasoning of academicians and ask a sensible question on the basis of reality. It is hard to see how people can have such astounding credulity as to believe that everything as complicated and marvelous as the created universe could just have happened. Someone has said, “I would just as readily expect to drop the letters of the Greek alphabet upon the ground and pick up an Iliad or an Odyssey as to expect the standard processes of nature to have come by chance.” The contention that what is has happened by the blind working of natural law is too illogical for anyone but the overeducated to believe. It violates the first principles of common sense.”

b. Design or argument from orderliness

1. See orderliness of universe

c. Creator of heavens and earth

1. Saw last week that new knowledge may enlarge our conception of truth, but not change the truth.

2. Look at enormity of universe

3. How all fits together

4. Surely we must believe some person with mind and sense made this

5. someone has said it is remarkable to what extent some people will go to avoid the use of the name God.

3. What it means to believe that He is Creator of heavens and earth.

a. Shows foolishness of idolatry

1. Why worship trees, gold, silver, even sun, moon, stars
2. He made all of these things
- b. Removes doubt about miracles
 1. God made all things
 2. Surely not hard to believe He can do with them as He pleases

II. Father Almighty

1. He is an Almighty God
 - a. He can do all things
 - b. He is a mighty Person
2. He is my Father
 - a. He cares for me
 - b. Have privileges that others may not have
 1. Dad and Caroline Compton when she was on camouflaged tank; other children told her to get off, but she said she did not have to; and they said, "Is he your father?" and she said same as. That made it all right.
 2. God is my Father and I can expect Him to use His mighty power, His world and universe for me.

Conclusion

1. This faith should mean something more than speculation to us.
 - a. From "World's Greatest Sermons" – Douglass – 234-235

Renan: "What a delight to the man who is weighted down by six days of toil, to come on the seventh to rest upon his knees to contemplate tall columns, arches, and altar, to listen to the chanting, to hear moral and consoling words. It is the privilege of pure sentiment to be invulnerable and to play with poison without being hurt by it."

2. Go out and live by this faith
 - a. You boys and girls
 1. Getting lessons
 2. Playing your games
 - b. You young people
 1. Choosing your profession
 2. Choosing your wives or husbands
 - c. All of us
 1. In facing temptations
 2. In time of sorrow
 3. When face great tasks
3. I believe in God the Father Almighty, etc.