

is the general attitude today. This talk about a God is something largely imaginary! But it seems to me he ought to have looked at that illustration a little further. There's no horse inside the locomotive but you never saw a locomotive anywhere that a man did not make, and you never saw a locomotive start without a man starting it. It takes some kind of life to make anything go. It takes some kind of mind to make anything move in order to accomplish things. So the attempt to explain the world as if there was no God is fundamentally illogical and irrational. But we find it all around. So when you say the Bible is the Word of God, if God is some sort of abstraction, some imaginary thing, naturally it is quite meaningless to people today.

When I was a student at the U. of Berlin I was asked to preach at the American Church there. I did not feel I could do it since I was there for study, and did not feel I could take complete charge of it. But said, I'll be willing to take two Sundays out of each month, if you'll get someone to take the other two. That way there will be more continuity than if I had it very other Sunday, and I believe I can take that much time from my studies and still get the value I came over for. So they got another student from another seminary of the same denomination to which I belonged, and arranged to have him preach two Sundays and I would preach two Sundays. I would preach on the resurrection of Christ and what it means to us, or the necessity of salvation thro the shed blood of Christ and then he would preach on the glory of the common place or how Jacob believed in a tribal god. Once he crossed over the Jordan into another area, he was in the area of Chemosh instead of Yahweh and so things went entirely different. While I preached I saw this fellow in the front row, his face just writing in agony, and I suppose I looked about the same way when he preached. But the people liked us both. People are tremendously influenced without realizing how they are influenced. I'm afraid most of what I could do there was counter-balanced by what he was doing. But one morning in his prayer before the sermon, he addressed Christ and used terminology that it seemed to me could only be applied to God and did not fit with his general attitude. So the next time we were together chatting, I said, it sounded as if in your prayer this morning you expressed belief in the deity of Christ. Oh, he said, I have no difficulty with the deity of Christ. But I knew so many things he did have difficulty with that I could not quite understand that. I said, What then do you mean by deity? Well, we were alone. There was no examining committee of Presbytery near and he spoke quite frankly. Oh, he said, God is the symbol of for ethical value. Just like Uncle Sam is the symbol for the U.S. I said, How can you pray then? He said, You can address a stick or a stone; you can talk to the ocean. Here he was addressing a symbol of ethical value and I was praying to God who created the Universe. That's the situation we've had with so many of our denominations in recent years. Until now those who believe only in God as a symbol for ethical value, or something like that, have gotten control of most of our large denominations, and others have to keep quite or be pushed out and start from scratch again. If it's God's will he must start from scratch, and if our Lord carries I'm sure that in the end we can build up groups that believed just as our ancestors believed.