

say we want to find out if there is any country over there and therefore we stand on the shore of the Pacific ocean and we look across and we see some clouds and we see some waves and then we start reasoning and we say, "well, now, I think there must be a country over there like this one here. I wonder which way the rivers are flowing. Do they flow from north to south like the Mississippi and the Colorado and other rivers here, or do they flow from south to north like the Nile river does? Does it flow from east to west or west to east? Which way do they flow?" The fact is you could not tell. You could say, "I think they must flow this way." But someone else can say, "I think they must flow the other way," and you could argue and discuss this and you would never reach any conclusion and philosophy is the attempt to deal with the ultimate facts of the universe which are beyond what we can examine and experiment with is in exactly that position. The only way it can get an answer to these questions is to get a revelation from one who knows. Talk to someone who has been across. Get a book by someone who has been in China. Study what he has to say about that country and you will learn more in ten minutes that way than you will from ten thousand years standing by the shore and speculating about it. Similarly, if you want to know about eternal things, there is one way to find out about them and that is by seeing whether there is a revelation from one who knows. If there is not a revelation you just can't tell, and if there is then you must consider the question of God; you take the first matter in Christianity is the question of God. New questions which you can ask about God fall into two different categories, Some of them fall into the category of accessible and some fall into the category of inaccessible. I would say that the question, "Is there a God?" falls very definitely into the accessible category. I would say that it is possible, and that it is our duty, to know the evidence of the facts that there is a God, the evidences of the fact that there is a supreme being who created the universe and who controls it. You can see that fact. It is a matter of observation which anyone who can think can clearly see. You do not need a Bible to tell you that there is a God. (I will develop that point later, It is a fact that is vital to recognize. It is an accessible fact.

Then you ask, "what kind of God is he? Is he cruel or is he a kind God/ Is he a great God force, of unthinking force, or is he a kindly father? Is he a god in three persons or is there no differentiation?" These questions are not accessible. There is absolutely no way to get an answer to these questions except as you get a revelation. Perhaps you see a man come walking up from a dock and he is a husky-looking fellow and he carries two bit suitcases in his hands, tremendously big suitcases, and he lifts up both of his suitcases, and his face is all set and tense, and you can easily tell something about his strength. You know he is there; you know he is real; you know he is strong, but is he kind? Is he gentle or is he cruel? That will take a revelation. He will have to start doing something that will reveal those facts about him or somebody will have to tell you. You cannot tell that simply from seeing him do;int something that demonstrates his strength.