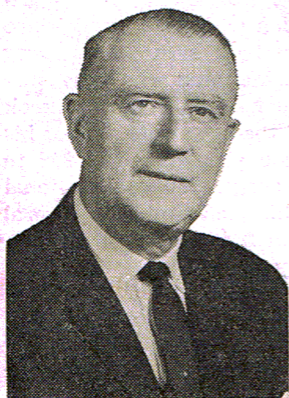


THE OBITUARY OF GOD

||
*Radio
Message
Heard
Over . . .*



REV. C. HUTCHINSON



No. H-4

Just a word about Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour. It had its beginning in the fall of 1925 when the late William Aberhart, sensing the possibilities offered by radio for the spreading of the Gospel, began to broadcast regularly over a pioneer Calgary radio station. These weekly programs have continued over this station without a break since that date. Mr. Aberhart was joined very shortly by Ernest C. Manning who later succeeded him as Premier of Alberta, and took over the direction of the broadcast. Under his leadership the decision was made in 1948 to expand the radio coverage. Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour now, and for several years, has been heard from coast to coast.

Assisted by talented gospel soloists and musicians, under the direction of Mrs. Manning, the Broadcast brings to the nation the old fashioned Gospel together with well-loved hymns of the faith.

Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour is a work of faith. No part of the large sums spent annually for broadcast time is underwritten. This far-flung ministry is wholly dependent on the voluntary support of those who share Mr. Manning's concern for the spiritual needs of the nation. Accorded the prayerful help of its many thousands of radio listeners, Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour will continue to be a dynamic force in the spiritual life of the Canadian people.

All correspondence should be addressed:

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THE OBITUARY OF GOD

Do you read the obituary column? Look at this one dated November 9th, 1965, Atlanta, Georgia.

"God, creator of the universe, principal deity of the world's Jews, ultimate reality of Christian's and most eminent of all divinities, died late yesterday, during major surgery undertaken to correct massive diminishing influence. Reaction from the world's great and from the man on the street was uniformly incredulous."

Well, there you have it. That is the obituary of God. Yes, this was published as a satire, on the basis of the new non-theology, published by the Methodist student magazine "Motif" after the death of God was announced by one of the professors, Thomas J. J. Altizer of Emory University of Georgia. Now immediately, an incredible thing took place. Many preachers, even those who lay claim to the title "evangelical" or "fundamental Bible believing" began to apologize for these brazen, blurring blasphemers by saying — "well, you know, they didn't really mean that — they just meant that modern society is not recognizing the living God". Let me interject this — no true man of God has any business defending anyone, cleric or not, who denies the Word of God. The command of God is this; rebuke them sharply with the sword of the Spirit of the Word of God itself.

What do these "God is dead" announcers mean? I want one of them to answer this for

you. Don't take my word for it. Dr. William Hamilton, a theological professor of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School is a leading spokesman for this new group. Speaking in Toronto he said, as reported in the Toronto Star:

"We are atheists, but Christian atheists. We differ from classical atheism in that it says there never was a God, whereas we say there was a God, but there isn't now. We are not talking about the absence of the experience of God, but about the experience of the absence of God. God's death is not a sad thing. It is not the occasion for a requiem, but for a comedy. One of the most exciting things I see, is the possibility of celebrating the death of God."

Now that is clear enough. These men really mean to say that Almighty God, the Eternal God, died — ceased to exist at some definitely specified day and hour, utterly expired, breathed His last and is gone!

What do you think about that? Are you glad, or sad? Do you laugh, or weep, or just hold the whole thing in complete contempt? Mark you, if there is no God, there is no more prayer. It would be foolish to be talking to somebody who doesn't exist. If God is dead, let's do away with all worship; we have nobody left to worship. If God is dead, there is no gospel, because there is no one to save us, and we cannot possibly have a revival because there is nobody to revive us.

I would like to mention some very serious things about this. First of all, this claim is the perfectly logical outcome of a process that forces men to this conclusion. Yes, I mean it. This is logic. That process has been with mankind ever since Satan said to Eve, "*Yea, hath God said?*". Subtle and not so subtle denial of the Word of God has been going on throughout the whole history of mankind. Back about one hundred years ago, you would find that most of the college professors believed in God and believed the gospel. But in the latter part of the 19th century, the tempo of apostasy speeded up. Charles Darwin arose and propounded his theory of evolution, the origin of the species to the great delight of Karl Marx, founder of communism. The whole farce was a pseudo-scientific attempt to remove God from the human scene.

Do you see how it began? Darwin thought that everything came from nothing — matter, energy, light and life itself — came from nothing. Now that is utter nonsense. You try it some time. Go to the blackboard and write down zero times zero. Even if you never took up the New Math you know the answer to that one is zero. It is always zero. Now even if you stood there and did it a thousand times, you would still have the same results. You could do it a billion times and still get zero. Something never comes out of nothing.

In this twentieth century the propagation of the evolutionary theory has accelerated despite the discovery of many new things which show its fallacy; the laws of thermodynamics, for instance. The first of these

laws is simply: what goes into a chemical or physical equation, must come out, no more and no less. In other words, something never comes from nothing and it never goes into nothing. This is the first law of thermodynamics. All of our science, and chemistry and physics is built on it.

The second law is called the law of entropy. Energy is always being dissipated and unrecoverable. The sun sends out its unthinkable energy into all the realms of space and most of this becomes quite unrecoverable. In other words, the universe is running down, it is not building up. It is not evolving. Every scientist knows this. But the powers of Satan saw to it that this movement to push God out, got into the theological seminaries. More than forty years ago, it was inculcated into the minds of young men preparing for the ministry of the Word of God. And there were subtle and strenuous attempts to rationalize everything in the Bible, explain it all on natural grounds, do away with the miraculous. No longer was the virgin birth of Jesus Christ accepted as credible, as believable, except by those who dared believe the Bible. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has been denounced and denied as simply a story and as a myth. And when you get rid of all the miraculous and explain it all away, then no God is needed.

Today through the new curriculum, this is being poured into the impressionable hearts and minds of the children. Do you not see this "No God", "Death of God" movement is the logical outcome, the climax of all this,

and incidently, the basic tenet of communism. No Creator, no miracles, no God — just materialism. See how cleverly this is being done. Dr. Hamilton very carefully says:

"We differ from classical atheism in that it says there never was a God, whereas we say there was a God, but there isn't now".

You see, knowing that neither the material universe, nor the fact of life can be accounted for without God, these people allow God to start things off, to create things, to give life, and then kill Him off by proclamation so that He will not now interfere, and not be around to judge men. It is an awful thought to think that God might someday judge mankind — so away with it!

Well, then, what is there for us to say about this? What do you say about it? I have plenty to say. First of all, I have a number of questions.

Just when did God die? . . . Why did He die? . . . Ought there not to be some sort of an autopsy to find out what disease He had, or if He was murdered by someone? . . . Who discovered this, and brought the news out of the infinite realm where God is? . . . Was it brought by a weeping angel, or a grinning devil? . . . How did these men get in touch with these unseen realms? . . . Why did nobody else hear about it? . . . I read that the angels of heaven announced the birth of

Jesus, God the Son into the world to a company of people. Why have we not had a general angelic announcement concerning His Death?

The whole thing becomes absurd, a farce, silly imagination without a shred of evidence. No wonder there has been general incredulity. How do you answer the ridiculous? Martin Luther said the best way to drive out the devil if he will not yield to texts of scripture is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn. Thomas More said the devil, that proud spirit, cannot endure to be mocked. I suppose they base that idea on the mocking scoffing irony of Elijah on Mount Carmel as he cried to the prophets of Baal, when they tried to call upon their god—*Cry aloud, maybe he is out hunting, or on a journey; maybe he is sleeping, wake him up.* Elijah mocked them. But I still think it best to meet falsity with the infallible Word of the living God.

Is God dead? I know He isn't. How? Well in John 1:4, we read this:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men".

If God, the author of all life, the sustainer of all life, died, all life would immediately cease. We would be dead. As long as there is a flower pouring out its perfume into the air, as long as there is a bird singing its song, or a beast roaming the forest, or men worshipping God—God lives. And because He lives, I live. Without Him, I cannot live; no one can; there is no life.

We read in Colossians 1:17:

"And he (God) is before all things, and by him all things consist".

The word 'consist' means to hold together. Everything is held together by the power of God. Now no scientist knows what holds the atoms together. By all the laws of electricity concerning attraction and repulsion, they ought to fly apart. They have similarly charged particles which stick together when they should fly apart. Men don't know what holds them together. They call it "atomic glue" for lack of a better explanation. The Bible tells us that God does it. If He died, the universe would disintegrate in an unthinkable atomic explosion. The earth, the sun, the moon and the stars, would all go to pieces. And yet here we are! God lives! God lives **today!**

(Deuteronomy 33:27):

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms".

God cannot be dismissed by some puny, dusty, dying man, professor or not. God gives life and our material world. But think of this. **God did die**; not in our time, but over 1900 years ago. God the Son, Jesus Christ, died on a cross.

Of all times in the history of the universe, when the Trinity was needed it was then. While God the Son died, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit still held sway and sustained the universe. Even so, as Deity expired

on the cross, the earth reeled and rocked with a great and mighty earthquake. The sun grew black in the heavens, when God the Son died. And only the fact of a triune God still there, sustained the universe. When God the Son arose, triumphant over death, again the earth quaked and shook and trembled as He stepped back into control. Today, because He lives, I live also. The universe remains, because our Lord Jesus Christ is resurrected and lives and controls it all.

Sometimes we sing the song: "He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today . . . You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart." O yes, that is true, but I know He lives because the Word of God tells me so. He lives outside my heart, too, and He controls the universe.

Have you had any dealings with God lately?

Do you know that He is still there?

Has He quit answering prayer?

Is the line dead—

Nobody home?

It has been said: "Men know the Bible is inspired because as they read it, it inspires them". And just so, men can talk to God and know He is there and get a reply. Now at once we who believe in God, face the charge

—"Your idea of God is far too anthropomorphic". That is a five-cylinder word, meaning simply "like a man". Some point to Raphael's depictions of God in the Sistine Chapel in Rome where he pictured a fatherly figure with a white beard and flowing robe, the sort of a person one could talk to and converse with on a human level. Is that God? There are widely differing opinions about God, from sort of a celestial gas, to a ghost, a light, just a voice, a kind of invisible honorary president of the universe.

No, God is not a person of flesh and blood and bone. God is a spirit. He has no earthly body like ours. But is He not like us? He is called the invisible God and thus only known through the spiritual faculty of faith. But we know much about Him and His unseen presence, whose creative handiwork is scattered all about in every flower and stalk of grass, and bird, and beast, and fish, in the atomic structure, in the starry space, and in the God-conscious soul of man. We see the handiwork of this intelligent Person. But is He like us? Now in case we think of God as some impersonal force, He has deliberately set before us anthropomorphic concepts of Himself. In the first chapter of the Bible, verse 27 we read:

"So God created man in his own image".

God is not in the image of man, but man is in the image of God. So you look at yourself, and though the image has been ravaged by centuries of sin, something is there, intelligence, faculties, powers, and the mind, that

tell us what God is like. But more than this, God pictures Himself as possessing something very much akin to our faculties. God is able to smell. When Noah offered his sacrifice after the flood (a very real, literal flood, by the way) in Genesis 8:21 we read:

"The Lord smelled a sweet savour".

And in Philippians 4:18 concerning the giving of gifts to Paul for the Lord's work, we read:

"An odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God".

It seems apparent that God can taste. In John 15:1 He said:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman".

And II Timothy 2:6 says:

"The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits".

So apparently He can taste. Certainly God can feel. Hebrews 4:14-15 says:

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin".

He feels for us. God has a personal presence.

Matthew 18:20 says:

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them".

Is this still valid? Certainly it is.

Again, God can see: Proverbs 15:3 says:

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding evil and the good".

That may make you a little uncomfortable, but it is true. I Peter 3:12 says this:

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers".

Does God have eyes? The Bible says He does. And that leads us to the fact that He hears.

(Malachi 3:16):

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name".

God is the great "eavesdropper", listening every moment. You know, Thomas had a staggering experience. Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection on the evening of the first day of the week and Thomas was not there. Then the disciples told him about it and he said:

(John 20:25):

“. . . I will not believe. Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe”.

Then, eight days later Thomas was in the group and Jesus walked in through the walls, with a body of flesh and bones; and in verses 27 and 28 we read this:

“Then said he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God”.

Why? Thomas was staggered! Do you see what I mean? In his heart Thomas was saying:

“He heard me! He was listening! I said those very words! He was somewhere there, unseen, but within ear-shot. He is the listening God. My Lord — my God!”.

Jesus Christ was alive, active, in all this. Indeed, God is “like a man” and wants us to be like Him in every moral and holy sense. God has feelings like ours. He knows what love is. He is a God of mercy. He is a God of compassion and understanding.

Oh, but there is much more to be said. I mentioned that some 1900 years ago, God

actually took upon Himself the human form and lived on earth, indeed anthropomorphic (in the form of a man).

(Hebrews 2:16):

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham”.

(Philippians 2: 6,7):

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”.

Do you know what God is like? Jesus Christ came in the form of a man to reveal this to us. In Time magazine, April 8th, 1966, a long article appeared on this subject “Is God Dead?”. It said in part:

“Judaism, has a unique sense of God's personal presence. Scripture records that He walked in the Garden of Eden with Adam, spoke familiarly on Mount Sinai with Moses, expressed an almost human anger and joy. Christianity added an even more mystifying dimension to the belief that the infinitely distant was infinitely near, the doctrine that God came down to earth in the person of a Jewish carpenter, named Jesus who died at Jerusalem around 26 A.D.”

So goes the statement from the article in Time magazine. That is a true fact, but not

the whole truth. God came down to earth in the person of Jesus Christ—true. He was a man, the great incarnation of God, the very God of heaven, coming down in the form of man, and walking on this earth for some thirty odd years. There He was, in that form, showing us the very image of God in nature, in character, in holiness, in the abhorrence of every taint of sin; yet full of love and compassion for needy men and women. He voluntarily gave Himself to death, laid down His life and shed His blood at Calvary as the full complete redemption price of mankind. He was buried for three days and three nights, and then—He rose from the dead and ascended in that body into heaven.

God died and then came alive again—miracle of miracles—declaring Him to be the Son of God with power. No wonder the godless try to deny the resurrection and hate the thought of it. For me, it means supremely that God is alive and coming to judge the world. Look at Revelation 1:18, the words of that Living Resurrected God the Son:

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; And have the keys of hell and of death”.

In that one shining, glittering stroke, the keen Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, forever demolishes the “God is Dead” farce. Jesus said: **“I am alive for evermore”**. What does that mean to you and me personally? This—that when you and I come to that great gate of death, God had better be alive then, for we’ll need Him sorely indeed. We

need Him now. This day is given us to prepare for that day. Thank God the way is open and clear.

(John 14:6):

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”.

(Acts 13:38,39):

“And through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses”.

It says “all the sin of all who believe”. God grant that you will know this wonderful living Saviour and that you will put all your trust in His finished work. The blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse YOU from all sin. What a glorious promise! That blood was shed on Calvary’s cross to pay the death penalty for all the sins of the whole human race. And so the pardon is available for any man or woman. And it is to be received simply and wholeheartedly by the act of FAITH. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”* Do it this very moment!

For twenty years **Berean Bible College**, located in Calgary, Alberta, has been engaged in the supremely important task of training young men and women for the Christian ministry. Today its graduates stand across the world, witnessing to the saving power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the pulpits of North America, in the great cities of many lands, and on lonely mission stations, the very outposts of civilization. Others are living effectively for Christ in our schools, as teachers, and in the business areas of every kind, carrying a witness where it is greatly needed. The College is thoroughly evangelical and fundamental in every way. The Bible is taught as the infallible word of the Living God, given to man that he might find full and free salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Throughout the entire history of the College, **Rev. C. Hutchinson** has been the Principal. Born in England, he came to Canada as a boy. He was first pointed to the Saviour under the ministry of the late William Aberhart, and has long been an associate of Premier E. C. Manning. He has been a radio speaker for over thirty years, and has also a wide ministry in Bible Conferences across Canada. His travels have taken him around the world, and to most of the great mission fields in Africa, India and the Far East.

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