

In this ch. he begins to speak of the terrible condition in which man finds himself today. He says man is in a terrible, a desperate situation. He says, he's like a man who is 2/3 of a way up a mountain with big cliffs above and cliffs below, and he says, you may climb up here a little ways and a little gulley there and who can tell where it will end. Who knows how you can get out of this terrible situation? Now, he says, the materialist is the man who says, I'm perfectly safe, and he pretends everything is allright. He says, That's nonsense! On the other hand, he says the religious man is one who just darts wildly upward and in any direction that occurs to him. That is an utter caricature (?) of what a religious man is. It makes one think that Hoyle, like so many today, has never come in contact with a real presentation of what Christianity is.

Using his illustration, we could go a little further and say that a Christian is indeed a man who is on a cliff with the yawing depths below him and the difficult climb above. But he has something Hoyle doesn't suggest. He has the Word of God. The Word of God is like a two-way radio set which he has. Over there on the other peak there is someone watching him with a big telescope who can see the whole mountain in a way we can't see it and who knows that if he goes up this way he'll come to a dead end, and if he goes up this way he'll come to a sheer drop, and if he comes up here and moves over there he will get to the top in safety. This One who sees the end from the beginning is saying on the radio, Go up a little to the right, and a little that way, follow this and you will come out safely. The Word of God is a revelation from the creator of the universe telling us what is ahead and how we can safely come through the dangers ahead of us.

Hoyle ends his passage with the statement, All we have to do is to wait until the scientists study. Let them keep on doing research, and he holds out the hope that in a few more thousand years of investigation and experimentation they will find the answer to our desperate situation. But I'd hate to be hanging on the cliff for a few thousand years for him. I'm afraid I won't even be here! to find what solution they give!

The solution is in the Word of God. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet . . ." There are many today who like the ridiculous idea of revelation. They say, That's some old medieval concept. We're not interested in that today. We're interested in what we can experiment and find out and work out for ourselves. Actually revelation simply means communication. 98% of what any of us have ever learned has come from communication. Somebody tells you something. Writes something in a book that you read. God wants us to use our brains, he wants us to study, to work to understand this world in which we live. But in the end most of what we get we get from others who tell us what they know, or what they have seen. When we get beyond what any of us can read (?) we need a revelation -- a revelation from the Creator of the Universe. That's what the Bible is. It's a revelation from Him telling us how we can understand our lives and how we can understand this world in which we live.

Now sin is in the world and Satan does not want us to follow this revelation. So today we have attacks upon the Bible that are more severe and above all more subtle than perhaps any in the history of the world. We don't just take up the Bible and pick out a verse anywhere and take what it says in a superficial way and get the truth. That's not our belief about the Bible. Believe we have to study it.