

#### 4) Purposes

a. Theistic argument is another way of proclaiming the truth re. God & His Kingdom. It is the duty of the Church to declare the truth of God as it is made known & manifest in every realm. It must be presented in the best reasoned manner.

b. The argument can be, has been & ought to be a means of bringing conviction upon the unbeliever.

i. If the unbeliever is blinded, & we say therefore that the presentation of this truth is useless, we are making a mistake.

ii. It may appear to be a good argument to say what is the use of presenting truth to dead men, & color to the blind?

iii. But this is just what the Christian theist is called upon by his God to do.

iv. These arguments will not of themselves bring to the unbeliever the truth wh. will elicit true living & saving kn. of God. But they are not therefore useless, even for the unbeliever.

a) All truth is interrelated. It is in the context of the truth re God's power & divinity that the special saving truth of the Gospel is to be presented.

b) A true theist may start at any point in this creation & proceed, because at every point in creation there is the self-manifestation of God, with a straight line of connection between the willow by the water brook, or the flower in the cranniel wall, & the highest pinnacle of God's majesty & holiness.

c) The H. I. may use any point to start a process of conviction in the mind & heart of the unbeliever which is a prerequisite of faith.

d) There must be before the faith an antecedent conviction of some kind in the mind & heart of the unbeliever into wh. the kn. of God in Christ can come w/ relevance & meaning.

v. Living faith cannot attach itself to the willow by the water brook, but it may be the eventual sequel of an argument concerning the willow by the water brook. We never know when the H. I. is going to use that truth to bring that conviction culminating in faith in Jesus Christ. This is true in the sphere of corporate thinking as well as in the sphere of the individual. We must