

ONE WAY!

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

What made things worse was, that we were in a hurry. Here we were in a foreign country; we were trying to drive from one city to another to keep a dinner appointment, and it was dark already. I was navigating - perhaps that was the first mistake we made. At any rate we were on the right road, there could be no doubt about that. But we were not making any progress. None of the towns and villages we passed through bore any resemblance to the ones mentioned on the map. It wasn't until my friend stopped the car and looked at the map that we realised what was going wrong. Every road goes in two directions. When we joined this particular road we had headed left, not right. We were very late for dinner.

I remembered this journey the other day when I was thinking of the odd subject of Atheism. An atheist is a person who quite deliberately believes that there is no God at all. You don't meet too many such people, although, of course, all good Communists are supposed to be atheists. Most people are really half-believers or quarter-believers. They prefer to treat the question of God as being rather too difficult to be sure about, so they put it on one side. But an atheist is committed. He really believes that there is no God.

That's why atheists are, in a way, quite like Christians. They've examined the evidence; they haven't shied away or been cowardly, frightened of what they may discover. They are definite and committed.

Christians, too, are definite and committed; we, too, have examined the evidence, and to us it seems conclusive. Jesus Christ is the link between God and man; he is true God and true man. All those people who claim that they would take action on this God-business, if God could actually come and say a few words, are clearly either ignorant about, or avoiding the issue of, Jesus.

But the atheist has made up his mind. He has not left the road in the dark, wandering, lost, uncertain of the world and life. He is on the road and marching onwards. In a way he's on the right road. My problem is that I think he's like me on that famous night when we were late for dinner. I think he has mis-read the map, and is going in precisely the wrong direction. The further he goes the less he will understand of the world. It will seem more and more that his decision was wrong.

Are you an atheist? It was very humiliating when my friend corrected me and we turned round, retraced our steps and got it right. But I can tell you one thing - we had our dinner and a home to go to that night, even if we were late arriving.

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