

complaint is that you have no standard that holds you, or that prevents you from acting like the little joker in the game of thimble—now you see it, and now you don't.

INGERSOLL—"Were the greatest men of all antiquity without this standard?"

COMMENT—Which standard? Do you refer to the *true* standard, or to *some* standard? These great men had a standard—the will of the gods. They thus recognized a very important truth; namely, that the standard of morals should be a *will* superior to the human will. They erred in *locating* this superior or supreme will, but they recognized its necessity *somewhere*. In doing this these great men paid a magnificent tribute to the true God and to human reason. These men whose genius the world honors were too great to be atheists. They believed in the existence of God, and failed only to *identify* Him, or understand His nature. They honored the true God when by mistake they accepted a false one, as you would honor a genuine United States bond by accepting a counterfeit through ignorance. They had then a standard of right and wrong, and although it was not the true one, yet they were consistent and held themselves amenable to it in their lives and in their logic. Their philosophy and theology begun where yours end. It is your misfortune that you never studied them profoundly, as they deserve to be studied, for they were giants, these men of old.

INGERSOLL—"In the eyes of the intelligent men of Greece and Rome, were all deeds, whether good or evil, morally alike?"

COMMENT—No, sir. As we have seen, they had a standard—the will of the gods—and therefore all deeds were not, in their eyes, morally alike. Their standard, not being the true one, did not enable them to correctly distinguish the right from the wrong, but it taught them that there was a right and a wrong. In this their standard was superior to any you have advanced; for your denial of God destroys all difference between right and wrong, and leaves the words crime and virtue without a meaning. These men of Greece and Rome were not so stupid as to believe your theory that consequences determine the nature of actions. They never stole the truths, beauties and magnificent results of the Christian religion and tried to make believe they were the fruits of Pagan-