

or death of religious belief. Doctrines are the foundation out of which character and conduct grow. Living religious doctrine is, or at least may be, and ought to be, a practical operative factor in life. The doctrines of theology are statements and representations of the character and will of God, which have a direct bearing on the life of man.

The lecturer then pictured what had happened, when doctrines were thrust aside and faith derided ; when reason was enthroned in the place of God. History contains no such stinging rebuke or solemn warning, as the state of society that sprung from that attempt. With the denial of doctrine came the destruction of duty, of everything ; and the first thing that stepped in to arrest the awful catastrophe, was a renascent faith in God. The very authors of this social and moral wreck, "stood up," as one has put it, "on the quivering corpse of society and loudly called for God, who could alone reanimate."

The speaker then traced the causes, which, from time to time, had led to aversion to doctrine ; indicating that the most prolific of all causes has been, that man hates restraint, and religion restrains. The voice of religious doctrine always has been, and always will be, "Thou shalt," and "Thou shalt not"—imperative demands issuing from the very idea of God. But man weary of the yoke, unready for the burden, seeks to break and to evade ; encompasses himself with arguments ; surrounds himself with distraction ; engrosses himself in business ; plunges into pleasure, if thereby he can only silence the imperative voice. His dislike of doctrine is born of his aversion to duty. He would willingly enough have the former, if he could only be free from the latter. But doctrine demands duty, and faith involves righteousness : and so he doubts because he wishes to doubt ; and refuses to believe because he is not prepared for the consequences of belief.

Having shown what reason, without faith, had done, the lecturer next proceeded to show what faith had accomplished. Drawing his examples, not from the Old and New Testament