

COLLEGE CHAPEL TALK

BELIEVE

by the Rev. Walter E. Orthwein

Readings: John 14.1-9; *True Christian Religion* 787 (part)

“You believe in God, believe also in Me.” (John 14.1)

Almost everyone believes in God. It is evident that nothing comes from nothing, but that everything comes from something else, and from this observation it is logical to conclude that there is a great chain of being which can be traced back to some first origin—and this First Cause of everything that exists is what is called God.

In addition to this philosophical reasoning for the existence of God, most people have a kind of perception, from an inner dictate, that gives them an instinctive belief in God. It is part of human nature to believe in God. The truth that there is a God, and only one God, flows from Him into the souls of all people (*True Christian Religion* 8).

But this belief may be very vague. So the Lord was born into the world to give people a more definite idea of God. In His own Human nature, He made God visible. Not just so we could have a clearer idea of God, but so we could love Him, freely cooperate with Him in His leading of us, and be conjoined with Him.

In the New Church, especially, we are not just concerned with “God” as an abstract, philosophical concept, but with the LORD—a Personal, Human God, who is close to us, cares about us, and involved in our lives.

We not only believe that there is a God, but that He is here with us, watching over us, speaking to us in His Word, calling us to Him, and seeking to change our character to prepare us for a place in His kingdom.

If we truly believe in God, then surely we will respond, with love and joy, to the revelation of God in Christ, that is, the Lord—both in His first advent, as recorded in the Gospels, and in His second, in the Writings of the New Church, which make God more visible than ever before.

All of this is involved in the Lord’s words: “You believe in God, believe also in Me.” AMEN.