

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves that in the final sense all truth is equally important...we cannot overlook or ignore any of it. But in a practical way some is more elemental and in this way we are able to designate our subjects as "Basic Christian Beliefs". The growing Christian will grow beyond these things into a life increasingly informed about the will of God and the work of Christ. But one must begin with an understanding of some sort of the foundation on which he is built. And that is what we hope to see in the consideration of "Basic Christian Beliefs".

II. The BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

A. We believe in God.

Hebrews 11, Acts 17

1. Introductory note:

The Scripture does not argue for God or present a logical case for his existence: it recognizes him and accepts the reality of his person. Scholars may offer arguments for the being of God (and we do not think these are out of place) but man basically starts life with a series of beliefs wrapped up in himself. One of these is the belief in a higher power--outside himself--who is supreme and controlling the affairs of life and the universe. This is not the Christian belief as a doctrine but it is one of those facts with which we must reckon. Belief in a deity seems to be one of the most ingrained parts of human thinking.

Therefore when we talk of believing in God we are not going to be satisfied with this worldly and vague view. But it is interesting to note that we are not talking about something foreign to man's nature. Men prove this belief culturally in the things they hold dear and, as we note humorously, even atheists demonstrate it when they decide to use an oath to secure someone's judgment. When we tell