

there in the class?) and he said, We want to learn to understand our world; to understand the universe, and what our place in it should be. I wonder how many of you can take the Bible literally? Well, most of our students came from fine Christian backgrounds, and I imagine 9/10th of them raised their hands. He picked out one of them and asked, You take the Bible literally? "Oh, yes." Well, it says in the OT that the Israelites went into a land flowing with milk and honey! Do you think there was milk and honey flowing from the streets? Oh, no of course not! Well, then you don't take the OT literally do you?

By this time the people were becoming a bit leary. So he said, Maybe there are some of you who don't believe you can take the OT literally, but think you can take the NT literally. Are there any that believe that? And a few hesitantly raised their hands, so he picked out one and said, You believe you can take the NT literally? "Yes." Well, we read that the people came to Jesus with certain statements about Herod, and Jesus said, Go tell that fox . . ." Do you think Herod was a four-footed beast? ~~Max~~ Oh, no! Well, you don't take the NT literally. Now then having disposed of the Bible we can go ahead and on the viewpoint purely of human philosophy and guesswork we could work out our interpretation of the world. Very subtle.

Students said, This professor doesn't care what you think. He's only interested in training you how to think. But it was remarkable how many of the students came out with the views exactly that he held. It was one of his great disappointments that I myself did not. After I'd been in seminary several years I was back and visited and he introduced me to his new assistant who was a graduate of Union Seminary and he said, I think of MacRae as sort of a lost soul. He was under my teaching for four years, and he's still a fundamentalist!

This man had a tremendous influence, but the influence of all ~~max~~ of the faculty--most of whom gave lip-service to Christian teaching--was very strong in undermining faith. I saw this professor later on when he was Professor of Religion in the U. of Chicago. We went for a walk and he turned to me and said, What this world needs is regeneration through the Holy Spirit! That sounds funny doesn't it. But we were alone that day. There was no examining committee. There was no presbytery that would be suspicious--just the two of us. So he could be perfectly frank. I turned to him and said, Professor, what do you mean by regeneration? by the Holy Spirit? He said, That's perfectly simple. He said, When a man joins a Christian community there's an interaction between his character and the character of the other members of the community. He said, That's what I mean by regeneration by the Holy Spirit!

It reminds me of a time when I was in Berlin. I was asked to preach half the time in the American church in Berlin. There was another man there who graduated from a different seminary than I did. He was to preach the other half of the time. We were both members of the same denomination. Ordained by different presbyteries. I would preach on salvation through Christ and the evidence of the resurrection. He would take up the collection when I preached. I'd take it up when he preached. He would sit in the second row and his