

“FAREWELL TO GOD”

Presented by

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In Blake’s lesson, “Darwin, God, and Little Annie,” and in Justin’s lesson, “Huxley, God, and Little Noel,” we learned how Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley both stopped believing in God because one of their children died at a young age. Instead of obeying and taking comfort from God’s Word, they blamed God for these tragedies—and as a result, they abandoned their faith in Him.

But there have been other people in more-recent times who have done the same type of thing. For example, Samuel Clemens, who is best known to us as Mark Twain, became angry at God after the death of his daughter, Suzy. As a result, Mr. Twain not only gave up his faith in God, but even went so far as to begin speaking out publicly against God and the Bible.

Another individual who gave up his belief in God was the famous English writer, W. Somerset Maugham. In a book he wrote to tell his life’s story, he explained how, as a youngster, he had prayed to God one night to ask God to cure him of a bad speech impediment. The next morning when he awoke, he discovered that he still had the problem. His disappointment at God’s failure to cure him overnight was so strong that he never believed in God again.

Still another person who gave up his belief in God was a well-known television preacher by the name of Charles Templeton. For many years Mr. Templeton was the minister of a church in Toronto, Canada, where he held “Youth for Christ” rallies that were very popular with young people. But, one day Mr. Templeton “just quit.” He abandoned **everything**—not just his position as a preacher, but also his belief in God, his belief in Christ, his belief in the Bible, his belief in heaven, his belief in, well, **everything!** He then wrote a book titled *Farewell to God* in which he explained **why** he had abandoned his faith.

One more person who gave up his belief in God was a very religious young man from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who not only led prayer groups in school, but even planned to become a missionary—until his sister died of leukemia and his father committed suicide. The boy’s belief in God collapsed, and he ended up becoming one of America’s most-famous atheists. That boy’s name was Ted Turner—the founder of world-famous media outlets such as CNN, Turner Broadcasting System, and other well-known enterprises.

In Galatians 6:9 the apostle Paul wrote, “Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Charles Darwin, Thomas Huxley, Somerset Maugham, Mark Twain, Ted Turner, and millions of others just like them “lost heart.” They gave up on God, even though God never gave up on them. He gave His Son to provide a home in heaven for them. But they rejected His offer, turned their backs on Him, walked away...**and ended up eternally lost!**

Let **us** learn from **their** mistakes. Let us make up our minds **never** to turn our backs on God. Let us say, as Job did, “Though He slay me, still will I trust Him” (Job 13:15). Then one day we will have the joy of hearing Him say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servants. Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:21).