



# AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

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One evening in an overnight shelter, the three men engaged in a long and intense discussion about matters of faith.

One claimed to be a Christian. Another said that he was agnostic because — as he put it — there just wasn't sufficient evidence to know for certain what was true about life, and that until there was, he was inclined to remain uncommitted.

The third man said that his search had revealed that no religion could be 100% proven, so he had come to the conclusion that it didn't greatly matter what one believed. "To each his own," he said. "I've tried Zen and Dianetics. I'm now exploring New Age thought. It seems to me that all religions lead to the same ultimate destination. So if you're happy, that's what counts. Nobody can 100% prove that they have a claim on truth, so I say go for whatever feels right."

Over the next few weeks they occasionally revisited the subject. The Christian tried to explain that even though Christianity is a faith system, it is an *intelligent* faith system. "Christian faith and reason are compatible," he insisted. "You go as far along the road of reason as possible toward a unified explanation of life, and then you **invest** your faith on the basis of the *preponderance* of evidence." He pointed out that our justice system operates on a similar principle — or no verdicts would ever be rendered. "Just because one can't 100% reason their way to Christianity doesn't mean that they need to reject reason out of hand," he said. "We should invest our faith on the basis of what we *do* know to be true. And I am now convinced that Christianity is the

the most reasonable faith system proposed in all of human history." But the other two remained unconvinced.

Finally, one day in mid-October, the three arrived at a three-way fork in the trail. Each path led in a separate direction and they were unable to locate any AT blaze marks. After checking the compass, they realized that the trail on the right seemed to head in a generally northeasterly direction. The trail on the left appeared to loop around horse-shoe style and head south. The trail in the middle headed west.



For over two hours the men discussed their options. Finally, the Christian said, "Look, guys, for over six months now this trail has been heading northeast. I for one think that we should take the trail to the right which continues in that same direction." But the agnostic said, "No. Unless we can 100% verify that the right fork is the Appalachian Trail, I'm going nowhere!" And he sat down. The third guy said, "Because we can't *absolutely* prove that any of these trails is the AT, for me one guess seems just as valid as another." So he stood up and headed left.

Consider all the evidence for a **personal Creator-God** consistent with the Christian worldview, e.g. nature, human personality, conscience. Consider all evidence for the **deity of Jesus Christ**, e.g. fulfilled prophecy, His miracles, His resurrection. **Where does the evidence point? Have you invested your faith intelligently?**

# What If Christianity Can't Be Proven?

## An Intriguing Parable About Three Guys on the Trail for Truth

by Daryl E. Witmer

Once upon a time three fellows decided to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT). None of the three had ever previously hiked the trail. But early that April they departed with much anticipation from the trail's southern terminus, Springer Mountain, in Georgia.

Day after day they hiked, progressing slowly but steadily through the southern and mid-Atlantic states. Finally, they arrived in New England, then Maine.

One of the three men had been carrying a compass. Whenever they would come to an AT sign, he took a reading. As they moved along the trail, all three noted that the compass consistently indicated that they were traveling in a generally northeastly direction.

**More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith**