

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A
CHRISTIAN: THE
EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE
IN OUTLINE, PP. 1-92**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649023868

What it Means to Be a Christian: The Evangelistic Message in Outline, pp. 1-92 by Edward Increase Bosworth

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD INCREASE BOSWORTH

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A
CHRISTIAN: THE
EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE
IN OUTLINE, PP. 1-92**

DV
4501
.B75

178

Special Textbook Edition

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

The Evangelistic Message in Outline

BY

EDWARD INCREASE BOSWORTH

New Testament Professor
in the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology

This edition is for the use of pastors in connection with the Program of Evangelism for the Local Church. It is intended as a textbook for study classes in the elements of Christian doctrine. Copies are supplied to pastors at greatly reduced cost by the Commission on Evangelism, as it is expected the book will be used in the denominational program of Evangelism.

This edition is distributed through the office of the Commission on Evangelism, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City, and through the Pilgrim Press bookstores.

The Pilgrim Press issues the regular edition bound in cloth, which may be secured through the Pilgrim Press bookstores at Boston and Chicago.

THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM AND DEVOTIONAL LIFE

WILLIAM HORACE DAY, *Chairman*
FREDERICK L. FAGLEY, *Secretary*

THE PILGRIM PRESS
BOSTON CHICAGO

COPYRIGHT, 1922
By SIDNEY A. WESTON

Printed in the United States of America

THE JORDAN & MORE PRESS
BOSTON

TO MY WIFE

1890-1891

BV
4501
.B75

*Gift
From J. N. Haines
3-6-32*

PREFACE

The pages that follow, prepared at the request of the Congregational Commission on Evangelism, present the gist of what has been worked out in many class-room discussions, open forums and personal conversations. Whatever value the presentation may have is largely due to the fact that it has been produced through intimate contact during many years with the actual needs and questionings of men and women looking for light on the problems of religious life. This experience has led to a realization of the very great evangelistic values of the point of view represented in these discussions. Those accustomed to a different point of view may nevertheless perhaps find in these pages suggestions useful to them in the presentation of religious experience from their own angle of approach. In these days of peculiar tumult in life and thought we may well be ready to gather from every quarter whatever may prove to have constructive value in building up that faith in God, in Jesus Christ, in the latent possibilities of good in all men, without which civilization cannot longer develop.

A much more extensive treatment of the subjects discussed might easily have been given but the purpose of the Commission seems better accomplished by compact statements. Some phases of religious life and thought

PREFACE

are not discussed at all. Those have been selected upon which it seems most desirable to concentrate the attention of persons who are being urged to begin the Christian way of living, to begin to pray and work and sacrifice in hope, to begin to feel out for the guidance of the living Lord as he leads on in the development of a race of men wise, powerful, honest and friendly.

EDWARD I. BOSWORTH.

Oberlin, Ohio,
September 7, 1922.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

THE WONDERFUL WAY OF LIVING

Purpose of the book	1
General statement of the Christian way of living	2
What we mean by the will of God	2
The goal of the will of God an honest and friendly world	2

CHAPTER II

BECOMING AWARE OF GOD

How make God real to men	5
1. By counting on normal mysticism	5
2. By beginning with their unrecognized religion	6
Two common experiences in which to look for the feel of God	7
3. By helping them feel after God in definite acts	9
(1) Beginning to pray	9
(2) Dropping a grudge and righting a wrong	12
(3) Taking up a neglected duty	13
Evidence that God is being found	14

CHAPTER III

IS THERE A GOD?

Can the existence of God be proved?	16
How much evidence is necessary to make it reasonable to begin to feel after God?	17
Evidence making the existence of God probable	18
Does the fact of human suffering forbid the supposition that there is a good God?	25
What is human suffering?	25
Its vital contribution to human progress	25
God shares human suffering	26

CHAPTER IV

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

What is prayer?	29
Does God give attention to details?	30
Prayer getting something from God to share with another	31