**Bradon Ladd**

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**Christian Beliefs**

**Discussion Points: Thorsen Chapter 2**

1. On Page 16, it talks about revelations, and how we tend to brush off the street-corner doom and gloom presenters that yell about how the world is ending soon. What can we do to prove that these presenters are simply yelling about something they believe, rather than being divinely inspired? On an extreme end, one or more of these could be actual prophets, so what do we do to discern that those preaching on the streets are false and not divinely inspired?
2. Page 17 talks about the Bible being the one authoritative source of our Christian beliefs, where some believe that there are more sources to consider. What does the Bible say about using outside sources to affect our beliefs? We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is divinely inspired, but the teachings of, say, Ellen White are not so easy to prove. Could there be a scenario where Ellen White was not inspired by God, and instead a false prophet leading us astray? This seems far-fetched, but it’s worth taking time to consider and completely prove.
3. Does God give a reason for progressive revelation? While reading the text, I noted that the differences between progressive and general revelation was only that one was given to everyone, while one was given to a few, who were then tasked to tell everyone. If something is important enough to tell the world, wouldn’t it make more sense to tell everyone about it, rather than rely on a select few?
4. Page 20 talks about the “feeling of absolute dependence” proposed by Friedrich Schleiermacher, where everyone has the innate pull towards a supernatural being, be it a god or something else. How does this theory account for atheism? If everyone has that desire, then that implies that atheists are rejecting their pull towards a higher power. I was really curious about this and ended up posting to an online forum asking about it and getting a perspective on how people who reject the idea of a god deal with this idea.