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Seminar on the Doctrines of Creation

Madras, 18th-20th July, 1962

Through the joint sponsorship of the Christian Institute of the Study of Religion and Society and the Indian Christian Theological Association, a seminar was conducted in Madras from 18th to 20th July on the Doctrines of Creation.

The doctrine of creation has engaged the thought of theologians in recent times, especially under the sub-themes of the nature of the creator, the status of the world, the place of man in the economy of things, the nature and direction of the historical process. For these reasons a seminar on this important subject was considered crucial for the thinking of the Church in India. And because theology in India must be fashioned against the cultural background of Indian thought, a consideration of the different Hindu theories of creation occupied an important place in the thinking and planning of the seminar. Advanced papers were sent out in the form of a printed booklet for preparatory readings. (These papers have now been published in the bulletin of *Religion and Society*, June, 1962). These included an editorial bringing out the salient points of the Hindu and Christian doctrines of creation. Other articles were the 'The Doctrine of Creation in Saiva Siddhanta', 'The Doctrine of Creation in Aurobindo's Philosophy' and the 'Roman Catholic Doctrine of Creation'. Papers read in the seminar, in addition to these, were: 'A Biblical View of Creation' by Dr. P. David, 'The Lutheran View of Creation' by Dr. M. L. Kretzmann, 'The Advaita View of Creation' by Dr. P. D. Devanandan, and 'Creation—A Modern Christian Viewpoint' by Rev. T. S. Garrett. Considerable discussion centred round the three papers on 'The Christian Differentia of the Doctrine' (Rev. C. Selvamony), 'Crucial Issues in Developing a Christian Interpretation in India' (Rev. I. Jesudason), and 'The Task of Communicating the Christian Doctrine of Creation in India' (Rev. A. B. Masilamani). The last and perhaps the most constructive aspect of the seminar was the tentative drawing-up of the elements that must be included in any formulation of a Christian doctrine of creation in the Indian context.

There was a lecture on each of the three evenings by an eminent guest speaker from the Hindu faith. Prof. C. T. Krishnamachari, of the Madras Christian College, spoke on the 'Hindu Understanding of Purpose in Creation', Dr. V. A. Devasenapathi, of the University of Madras, on 'The Hindu Understanding of

Man in Society' and Prof. S. Rajagopala Sastri, of Vivekananda College, Madras, on 'The Hindu Understanding of History'. Each of these lectures was followed by a lively discussion.

The seminar was held on the campus of the Gurukul Theological College and was attended by fifteen delegates representing a large segment of the church in South India, by the students and faculty of the Gurukul Theological College, and of Christa Seva Vidyalaya, and many others.

List of Participants

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| The Rt. Rev. Mar Chrysostom
(Chairman),
M.T. Syrian Church of Malabar,
Zion Hill Aramana,
Kottiyam 1,
Kerala. | Students of the Christa Seva Vidya-
laya, Madras. |
| Dr. P. D. Devanandan,
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19 Miller Road,
Bangalore 6. | Rev. E. Tychicus,
Arcot Theological Seminary,
Vellore,
N.A. District. |
| Dr. Herbert Jai Singh,
19 Miller Road,
Bangalore 6. | Rev. J. B. Carman,
Baptist Theological Seminary,
Ramapatnam,
Nellore District,
Andhra Pradesh. |
| Dr. M. L. Kretzmann,
Principal,
Concordia Theological Seminary,
Nagercoil,
Madras State. | Rev. I. Jesudason,
K.U.T. Seminary,
Kannanmoola,
Medical College P.O.,
Trivandrum, Kerala. |
| Dr. H. Grafe,
Gurukul, Kilpauk,
Madras 10. | Dr. P. David,
Principal,
Gurukul, Kilpauk,
Madras 10. |
| Rev. L. S. Clarke,
C.M. College and House,
Vellore, Madras State. | Rev. P. M. Thomas,
K.U.T. Seminary,
Kannanmoola,
Medical College P.O.,
Trivandrum, Kerala. |
| Rev. J. G. Steinhoff,
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Principal,
Andhra Union Theological College,
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| Rev. A. B. Masilamani,
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Tirumaraiyur, Nazareth,
Tirunelveli District. |
| Rev. C. Selvamony,
Tamilnad Theological College,
Tirumaraiyur, Nazareth,
Tirunelveli District. | Rev. M. H. Grumm,
Mission Compound,
Parnambut,
N.A. District. |
| Dr. James Burtness,
Gurukul, Kilpauk,
Madras 10. | Dr. R. A. Martin,
Gurukul, Kilpauk,
Madras 10. |
| Mr. M. M. Thomas,
Panavila Junction,
Thycaud, Trivandrum,
Kerala. | Prof. C. T. Krishnamachari,
Madras Christian College,
Thambaram, Madras. |
| Dr. V. A. Devasenapathi,
University of Madras,
Madras. | Prof. S. Rajagopala Sastri,
Vivekananda College, Madras. |
| Students of the Gurukul Theological
College, Madras. | |