

## EPILOGUE

Those who are "philosophically correct" in our era do not necessarily find the idea that God exists to be absurd; on average, however, that is all they allow a God to do—*exist*. Moreover, a good many philosophers who grant the intelligibility of God's bare existence find the idea of a God who has *physically intervened* in the midst of human history to be intellectually scandalous. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, however, is the story of Almighty God's historical intervention to salvage as many human beings as possible for life and glorification before a final judgment.

If this is true, it might even be *provable*. And in a certain technical sense it surely is provable, for all one needs in a proof is a collection of true propositions (the premises) which collectively *entail* that such a God exists. How hard could that be? Well, there is the sticky business of choosing which premises to use. But that isn't quite the point of all this. A part of the biblical story is that humans are by nature estranged from God; they do not approach the Christian story as mechanical and neutral intellects. So even while the Christian might satisfy the conditions of factual truth and correct logic, we are really seeking "proof" of a more complex order.

So let me begin again: Is it possible to prove the existence of God? Of course it is! Just ask Linus. But to prove God *for yourself*, which is really the only worthwhile proof a person can have, you must meet his Son. C. S. Lewis did that, and was surprised by joy. The Apostle Paul met him in the attempt to destroy him. He too was transformed by joy—and a *living* hope. The religious sophisticates of Capernaum met him but they tried to find him too ordinary to follow, and in their spiritual jadedness and collective arrogance they could not recognize him as the fulfillment of all their Scriptures.

The signal danger that motivated the New Testament letter to the Hebrews was the growing prospect of a heart-hardening born of distorted familiarity. That letter's recurrent theme is so very timely for western "Christendom": cognitive and spiritual drift *away* from the Gospel can be arrested only by looking to the actual Christ of Scripture. Although such