

Something it seems everybody tries from the speaker's platform that I have never been very good at is purposefully telling a joke. Well, I have one from my high school days that I thought I would tell tonight and see what reaction I get. It seems that there were two polar bears on an iceberg, and suddenly the iceberg split into two pieces. As they began to drift apart one bear yelled to the other, 'Radio!'

Now there may be some in the audience that do not get this joke, and if there are I want to assure them right now that they are perfectly normal. There is absolutely nothing funny about this joke. What was funny to us was the way we told it. We chose a sophomore who really wanted to be in the 'in crowd'. We would set it up so that everyone in the group would laugh at the joke like they really thought it was funny, allowing peer pressure to do its work. Almost invariably the victim would laugh a little, at least, just so he would not be thought stupid. It goes to show just how far people will go to be accepted no matter how much it goes against their beliefs.

This may sound like a cruel joke, but this is the way the world is. Atheists would have you believe that no intelligent person could possibly believe that God existed. Some evolutionists like Isaac Asimov say that there are no 'true scientists' who believe in creation. And many, afraid to be thought fools by people with advanced degrees, will follow along even though there is a nagging conflict with the idea in their minds. It is hard to know it all, and be sure of everything. But the real proof is in the pudding.

An atheist once publicly challenged Harry Ironside of Chicago to a debate on their respective beliefs. Dr. Ironside accepted the challenge but proposed that his opponent bring to the meeting a hundred persons whose lives had been revolutionized for the better by atheism. The atheist could not. Dr. Ironside then said that ten people only were necessary. For himself, he promised to bring ten Christians whose lives had been delivered from drunkenness, lying and pride by the Word of God. In the end the poor atheist had to confess that he could not produce even one person and gave up the debate.

God talked about using man's own wisdom against him in 1 Corinthians chapter 1. We may be fooled by that, but there is no way to argue against the kind of transformation that God can cause in our lives. He can turn us from the Ugly Duckling into a beautiful swan. He can change our night into day, simply by helping us to reproduce his goodness in our own hearts. It is the only way to true living, the best kind of living, and it is offered to us all through baptism in the blood of Christ. If there is any one here tonight that needs this transforming power won't you come now...