

U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

Series 1 2009

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THEISM

A Discussion Course

Dates: Wednesday, 22 April - Wednesday, 27 May 2009

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Venue: Salmond College, Knox Street, North East Valley

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 20

Course Fee: \$44.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Donald Feist (476 3268)



You may apply to enrol in more than one course in each series (subject to numbers). If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preference on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 11 February 2009, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 20 February.

Any questions about courses after 20 February should be made to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THEISM

A Discussion Course

For many people in the Western world today, the idea of a supernatural, personal God who sometimes intervenes in events on planet Earth – the idea known as “theism” – is a no-no. But many of these people also think the life and teaching of Jesus are a good basis on which to model their lives. David Simmers is one of these. A New Zealander, a former Rhodes Scholar and Presbyterian minister, who still preaches occasionally, he has recently published a book of about 30 short sermons under the title “Preaching Post-Theism.”

Among the topics he deals with as he thinks his own way to a version of Christianity post-theism are:

- Working from the bottom up” (*in building an idea of God*)
- Using the word ”spirit” rather than ”Spirit”
- “Choosing our God”
- “The Fall – Upwards”
- The Bible’s take on ”creation”
- “Can we still use the word ‘salvation’ ” (*if so, what would it mean?*)
- “Constructing a believable God”
- “Jesus the Jew”
- “The core message of Jesus”
- “Jesus’ social concern”
- “How faith can change” (*as people mature*)

In this course of six sessions, the group – limited to 20 participants – will discuss a selection of these topics. Participants will be sent a copy of the book when their applications are confirmed. The cost of the book (\$14.00) has been included in the course fee.

Discussion Facilitator: Donald Feist.