

## Faith, Religion

“That I am not a member of any Christian Church, is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or any denomination of Christians in particular.” – July 31, 1846, *Handbill Replying to Charges of Infidelity*

“The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong.” – September 1862, *Meditation on the Divine Will*

“Nevertheless, amid the greatest difficulties of my Administration, when I could not see any other resort, I would place my whole reliance on God, knowing that all would go well, and that He would decide for the right.” – October 24, 1863 Remarks to the Baltimore Presbyterian Synod

“My ancient faith teaches me that all men are created equal.” – 1854 speech, Peoria, Illinois

“Probably it is to be my lot to go on at twilight, feeling and reasoning my way through life, as questioning, doubting Thomas did.” – Abraham Lincoln, to Arminda Rogers Rankin

“...I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.” – Lincoln, in response to a clergyman [quoted in F.B. Carpenter, *Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln*, p.282]

“The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time.” – September 1862, *Meditation on the Divine Will*

“All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.” – September 7, 1864 Reply to Loyal Colored People of Baltimore upon Presentation of a Bible

“Certainly there is no contending against the Will of God; but still there is some difficulty in ascertaining, and applying it, to particular cases.” – Fragment on Pro-Slavery Theology, Oct. 1, 1858

“The good old maxims of the Bible are applicable, and truly applicable to human affairs, and in this as in other things, we may say here that he who is not for us is against us; he would gathereth not with us scattereth.” – Speech at Cincinnati, OH, Sept. 17, 1859.

“I think that if anything can be proved by natural theology, it is that slavery is morally wrong. God gave man a mouth to receive bread, hands to feed it, and his hand has a right to carry bread to his mouth controversy.” – Speech at Hartford, CT, March 5, 1860

“Remembering that Peter denied his Lord with an oath, after most solemnly protesting that he never would, I will not swear I will make no committals; but I do think I will not.” – Letter to Lyman Trumbull, June 5, 1860

“I turn, then, and look to the American people and to that God who has never forsaken them.” – Address to the Ohio Legislature, Feb. 13, 1861

“And having thus chosen our course, without guile, and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear, and with manly hearts.” – Message to Congress in Special Session, July 4, 1861

“In the very responsible position in which I happen to be placed, being a humble instrument in the hands of our Heavenly Father, as I am, and as we all are, to work out his great purposes, I have desired that all my works and acts may be according to his will, and that it might be so, I have sought his aid – but if after endeavoring to do my best in the light which He affords me, I find my efforts fail, I must believe that for some purpose unknown to me, He wills it otherwise. If I had had my way, this war would never have been commenced; If I had been allowed my way this would have been ended before this, but we find it still continues; and we must believe that He permits it for some wise purpose of his own, mysterious and unknown to us; and though with our limited understandings we may not be able to comprehend it, yet we cannot but believe that He who made the world still governs it.” – Reply to Eliza Gurney, Oct. 26, 1862

“And while it has not pleased the Almighty to bless us with a return of peace, we can but press on, guided by the best light He gives, trusting that in His own good time, and way, all will yet be well.” – Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862

“On principle I dislike an oath which requires a man to swear he *has* not done wrong. It rejects the Christian principle of forgiveness on terms of repentance. I think it is enough if the man does no wrong *hereafter*.” – Memorandum to Sec. Stanton, Feb. 5, 1864

“Tell him when you meet him, that I say I am not much of a judge of religion, but that, in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help *some* men to eat their bread in the sweat of *other* men’s faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to heaven.” – Story written for Noah Brooks, Dec. 6 (?), 1864

“God bless the Methodist Church – bless all churches – and blessed be God, Who, in this our great trial, giveth us the churches.” – Response to Methodists, May 18, 1864