1948–1954 he makes himself "Stated in more concrete terms this theory merely says that man is the measure of all things, man, rather than God, creates himself, and that whatever man is he himself achieved. But no Christian can believe this. From the deeps of our moral consciousness springs the conviction that what we are, we owe

AD CSKC Sermon file, folder 118, "Sermon Material"

2 King refers to the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. "What is meant here by saying that existence precedes essence? It means that, first of all, man exists, turns up, appears on the scene, and, only afterwards, defines himself" (Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism*, trans. Bernard Frechtman [New York: Philosophical Library, 1947], p. 18). King encountered existentialism in *Christian Theology for Today*, a class at Crozer, and recorded a paraphrase of this Sartre quote on notecards written during his years at Boston University (King, Class notes, *Christian Theology for Today*, 13 September–23 November 1949, and Personal notecards on “E” topics, 1948–1954)

"God the Inescapable"

Text 139th Psalm

Introd—The quest of Modern man to escape God

How do men attempt to escape God? The Psalm gives the ways men attempt to escape in his assertions of how man can't escape God

I If I ascent to the heavens Many many attempt to [ascend to?] a heaven of perfection, of absolute justice in which God is not wanted The heaven of utopia

II If I make Sheol my bed, thou art there Sheol, the habitation of the dead, is where man often runs to escape God There are those who long for death in order to escape the divine command. But death is no escape

III Go to the ends of the sea This is the way in which our technical civilization tries to liberate itself from God. Going ahead and ahead conquering more space, always active, always planning But God hands have fallen upon us, it has fallen heavy and destructively on our fleeting civilization

IV If I say darkness shall cover me, night shall hide me all around, yet darkness is not darkness to thee, the night is as bright as the day. Fleeing into darkness or forgetting God is no escape from him. Even if you deny him he gives you the truth to make the denial

Conclusion There is no escape from God by forgetting him. "Where could I go from thy Spirit, where could I flee from thy face?" Let your minds like maddening water run back to the sea of divinity. Just as we can't be lawless without law we can't be Godless without God

AD CSKC Sermon file, folder 69, "Fleeing from God & When God Seem to Deceive Us"

1 Sheol is the Hebrew word for "afterlife"
Success and Failure

"Then I count not myself to have apprehended..." - Philippians 3:13

There is a part-confession of failure.

Yet, this confession of failure produces no depression in the man who undertakes it.

What is the explanation of this contradiction?

The answer is found in the next verse:

Phil 3:8-10. There was a confession of failure, which could be made without humility, but with pride.

For he says what the passage says: the only way to produce real joy and permanent satisfaction is in the struggle to reach something that is beyond our capabilities. The successful is doing something that is beyond one's capabilities, but which our society regards as unimportant. What we succeed in doing does not cause us to rejoice.

God cares more for our high failures than for our easy successes.