

Monday Oct 23

My own dearest.

It was just a very ordinary day yesterday and nothing happened. It was cold and unpleasant out. We went to church in the morning and Violet took Clare out in the afternoon she did not want to go out before tea by herself, so I only had her after tea & to put to bed.

I think I am getting my ideas about religion slowly straight in my own mind. I want ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> have it on a belief in Jesus Christ's own words. They are sufficient to live by and to die by. They do tell of a future life. But then puzzles come in because Jesus speaks of Hell fire. Must we therefore believe in Hell fire, because I don't think we do or can ~~we~~ we believe that he spoke of hell fire because it was the belief of his time and the one most fitted for their minds. It is difficult.

The Jesus Christ says 'Do not neglect the assembling of yourselves together'. That is going to church or chapel because its the way its done now but he never said it mattered how you assembled yourselves together to pray. Then he does tell us

to pray and you dont do that, dear. I have often wanted to know why you dont. Is it because you have toyed it and found it no use. Even if praying for things is no use I think we might say thank you for what we have, which is a good lot. I dont think I could get on with out praying. I should burst with impatience. I suppose I do believe in prayer very much because I pray very hard for what I want. Jesus has said that we may pray hard because there is the parable of the man who went to borrow bread & his neighbour would not get up the first time he asked him, but because of his ~~insistent~~ impatience he did not get up & give him the bread.

But because one believes in Jesus to be as the basis of ones religion that is no reason as far as I can see why we should not add other teaching to it that is good and helpful.

But now the part that puzzles me so specially badly, now is my relation to the church. I wish you would help by explaining how you think it ought to be.

Father think his <sup>relation</sup> is like this. He says I have been

baptised and so I belong to the church & I wish to go to the movies, and as I have been baptised I am a member of the church and have a right to do so, even though I do not believe all that the church teaches.

There was an article in Saturdays Times on Saturday by Mr Clutton Brock saying that the Church is too apt to talk and think merely of obvious sins like stealing and drunkenness which every one knows are wrong, even those who commit the sins, and to take no notice of the big social sins of the respectable. Its rather awful to know that one is one of the sinning respectable unconscious that one is sinning. What are my social sins? One I am was is lazy mindedness, but still I do make spasmodic efforts to think. I wish the world was not quite so desperately difficult. I dont want every thing quite easy but its all such an awful muddle and no one knows where there are. I am very worried about Rumania. It will be such an awful disaster if the Germans overrun it as they did Serbia. I feel that its

much more important just now than our own Western front. I wish we could somehow help them but apparently that is impossible. I don't think they ought to have come in at all unless we were sure we could or they could prevent invasion. It will be a great blow to us if Germany gets all that food and oil.

It's a lovely mild half sunny day today. I have just been out for a walk with Clara it was very pleasant.

I do find it a great comfort to know that every body else in England, France, Russia and Germany must all be wanting the war to end as badly as I do. Oh I hope another winter will be found impossible.

I am now going to stop writing because I have a nice spare of time for putting some blue washes on my bowl that are very important.

Dearest I send you kisses and very much love

Your loving

Ruth.

