T   5

simple command as a test to see whether a man loves God sufficiently to
trust God's wisdom, whether he loves God sufficiently on one simple thing
on which there is no question as to what God's will is, God having made it
perfectly clear; whether he is ready to obey God on that special thing.
Now I think we are often deceived by the name of this tree which they were
not to eat of.. It is called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil".
Now just what does that mean, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"?
The natural inference from it, since we have our translation in old English,
is that this tree will enable them to know what is right and what is wrong
if they eat it. That, I think, is certainly an utterly incorrect interpreta-
tion. as if God would want man not to have the knowledge or what was right
and what was wrong. Certainly that was one thing He did want man to know,
was the knowledge of what was right and what was wrong. Now this word "evil",
unfortunately, is a word which has changed its meaning, or, rather, has
specialized its meaning. "Evil" in old English simply means "that which is
        or bad; it doesn't mean that which is wicked. necessarily. In modern
English the word has become specialized to mean something which is wicked,
and so when we say, "the knowledge of good and evil" it means the knowledge
of what is morally right and morally wrong, but the Hebrew word "   ",
which is used here, is a Hebrew word which regularly in the Hebrew means
"that which is bad or destructive" and there doesn't have to be anything
harmful in something being destructive. If you want to build a house you
may have to cut down some trees to build the house, and that is bad for the
trees, to cut them down, to make room for the house. Now anything that is
bad or destructive to the plans of God is naturally wicked and wrong but the
word itself doesn't mean, "bad to the plans of God", it means something that
is destructive, that tears doen in general. It is good and bad, rather than
good and evil, in modern English. Now if there is any question as to the
meaning of that it would be perfectly easy to take the Hebrew word "   "