

But there is nothing that denies it! The NT enlarges our understanding, deepens our insight, but it does not deny any portion of God's revelation. If we truly accept the Bible, if we truly follow Christ the whole Bible is God's Word. There are all too many who take a few vv. from the Bible and spend their lives on those verses. I know men who take a few of the most wonderful vv. of the Bible and spend their lives on them., and they do a great deal of good -- good and God greatly blesses them.

I know other men who take verses that I believe they misinterpret in the light of their context and they spend their lives on those few verses. Certainly they are doing harm. But I believe God wants us not to take a few verses even of those verses that bring out His great truths so clearly, but wants us to take the Bible as a whole. He wants us to take all of His Word. To see its interrelations and whatever he gives he wants us to find out how to interpret it, how to understand it.

This attitude so many take toward the OT would seem at first sight supported by this verse: You have heard it said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thy enemy. There's your OT, love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you." How different Christ's attitude is from that of the OT! they say. When they say that, ask them, Where is this verse in the OT? Just what verse of the OT is Christ quoting when he says, "Ye have heard it said, Thou shalt love thine neighbor and hate thine enemy?

You'll find the OT says, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, but there is nothing in the context about hating your enemy. Christ is not here speaking of the OT. He is speaking of the common attitude that people and particularly among the heathen people of His day, which was love the people of your nation, the people of your organization, the people of your group. Love them. But those people over across the border, Hate them. You should love those who are with you, and you should hate those who are against you. Christ is speaking against that. He is saying, That is the wrong attitude (But it is not the OT attitude). But that this attitude which is not the OT attitude, but which is a very common attitude is wrong. How much there is in our world today that is a wrong hatred--a hatred of those who belong to some other group, to some other race, or nation, or viewpoint. How utterly wrong it is.