

There was a very learned Bishop, outstanding debater and speaker but he didn't know much about science. But he picked up a little knowledge of science and started to show scientifically that Darwin was wrong when he wasn't competent to deal properly with it. After he finished this attack which was actually a well worked out attack, he had gotten a good scientist to give him some ideas but he really did not have the background to understand them properly; he ended up with saying, I would like to ask Mr. Huxley here, was it through your mother or through your father that you are descended from a monkey? Everybody laughed, of course. And Huxley brought his hand down on the knee of the man next to him, whom he didn't even know -- he jumped -- and Huxley said, The Lord hath delivered him into my hands. And the man wondered what he meant.

Huxley saw that the idea of justice, honor, and seeking truth which were the result of the great awakening and the result of the teaching of the Bible in England, that those ideals were being deserted by the men who were standing for dead orthodoxy, standing for the doctrines without making them living in their lives, and that a great number of people who didn't really know what they believed about the Bible, had been affected by these ideas.

Huxley, of course -- I started to say Huxley didn't realize these came from the Bible -- I should not say that. Because toward the end of his life Huxley was put on a committee to study British education and Huxley brought out a report that said the Bible should be at the center of British education because you'll never have high character unless you have the Bible. I don't know how he fit it with his evolutionary ideas, and his descendants have taken a very different attitude. But that was what Huxley did -- the respect he had for the Bible as the source of ideals. But he saw that the Bishop in dealing superficially with science, and in giving an argument that isn't an argument at all, -- "was it thro your father or thro your mother you descended from a monkey --" what's that got to do with it? The question is, Is the Bible true? If the Bible said we were descended from monkeys I would not hesitate to believe it, but the Bible says the exact opposite. When you build on an argument like that you are doing fast and loose with truth. Huxley saw it. He said, The Lord hath delivered him into my hand.

When Huxley's turn to speak came, he spoke very quietly at first about it and then he took up some scientific arguments in a field in which he had done direct work but which really didn't have much to do with whether the theory of evolution was true or not. But he dealt with these and showed that the Bishop was just not scientifically accurate in these things. When he came to the end of that he said, I've been asked about being descended from a monkey. He said, I would far rather be descended from one of those simply, unassuming creatures that knows little and knows that he knows little, than to be descended from a man of great ability, and great versatility but claiming to a knowledge that he doesn't have, and speaking authoritatively on things he is not fitted to speak on." And the place just went wild. The undergraduates threw their hats in the air. A woman fainted. It was one of the most exciting moments in the history of the university. The word of it went all over England. Huxley was taking his stand in favor of seeking truth. While the other man was using superficial arguments and it helped to undermine Christianity in England, and throughout the world.

Those few things about it are good to know. They give us the importance of standing not merely on what the Bible says but letting it find its outreach in our lives with those ideals God wants us to