

But if you're really going to know him you need to know a great deal about Him. There's one source in which to learn about Him. That is the Scripture. God's Word is the place where we learn about Christ. We must know about Him if we are going to know Him. Of course you learn to know Him best you might say through the gospels. Because in the gospels you see him walking, talking, doing his work, in contact with all sorts of situations.

So you learn about Christ and you have the feeling of coming into his presence as you read about him in the gospels. Yet in the gospels, in a way, much of his glory is hidden. He revealed truth to his disciples and he said, "Don't tell anybody!" Peter said, "You are the Messiah, You are the Son of God." Jesus said, "Don't tell anybody; don't tell anybody." He was teaching these things to a little group for a time. Then in the Epistles and in the Revelation he gives us, perhaps not so directly, so vividly, but more fully and more clearly, he gives us an idea of these great central facts about Him. His eternal deity and the purpose of his coming into the world. What he accomplished through it and what he's going to do when he comes back.

We need to study the whole N.T. in order to learn about Christ. But Jesus said to his disciples on the Emaus road, "Fools and slow of heart not to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory."

You read occasionally on a sign in front of a church: "No creed but the NT." I question whether such a church is a Christian church. Because there is no such thing as a Christian faith that is built only on the NT. The Apostles were constantly quoting the OT and referring back to the OT. The OT is just as much a part of the Bible as the NT. If you are really going to know about Christ you must know the OT as well as the NT. You must get into the OT, underneath the surface into those great teachings of the OT that are so foundational to so much in the NT. To know about Christ we need to know the whole Bible.

If you are going ~~to~~ really to understand the whole Bible the way you need to, you need all your time for three years just to do that, and we can't do that because we have to have practical things. We have to have general survey. We have to have theological study and other things that are necessary. But all of them rest upon knowing the Bible and learning to understand the Bible and in knowing exactly what these words mean in the original so that you can come to know about Christ as He desires you to do. And also in the Scriptures you come to know him in addition to knowing about Him.

You read in Genesis of his appearance to Abraham. You read in the historical books of his theophanies in which Jesus appeared to people in the OT and gave them messages and you read how Jesus acted thru the prophets of the OT and you learn about Him thru the Scripture and you learn to know Him thru the Scripture.