

spoke to those great crowds of people, he said, All I could do was to hit the mountain tops and I did not have any opportunity to go down into the valleys where the truth is in between. So he said, I decided I was just in the wrong work. So he divorced his wife, he quit the ministry, he became a newspaper editor and then he became a writer of script for a man ~~he~~ who was a comedian on TV for quite a number of years. He wrote script for him, I don't know what's happened to him now. But he was a man with tremendous gifts, a man who loved the Lord and who wanted to serve Him. But he felt he was he could continue no matter who he studied under. Instead of taking the Word of God and standing on the Word and not allowing himself to be led into fellowship with those who deny what the Word of God teaches.

We want to be careful as we stand for God's truth that we distinguish. I think there are two elements we might mention. We have God's Word in its entirety and there is a great danger in our paying attention to just a few parts instead of to the whole. I think it is good that we emphasize two particular things. I would say one is the vital truth, the vital truth of the Scripture. That is to say the fact of the deity of Christ, the fact of the necessity of salvation of what Christ did on the cross, the great central vital truths. And when a man stands for these great central vital truths, we can have much fellowship with him. These are the things we must push, and when a person accepts these vital truths, receives Christ into his heart, he can be saved even with very weak and insufficient knowledge.

But for the Christian it is their duty to go on and try to get more accomplishment(?) And so there is a second truth -- I call it foundational truth. And the foundational truth is this: This is God's Word. This is the foundation. That this is God's infallible inspired Word. That this word in the original languages, carefully translated, carefully interpreted, gives us exactly what God wants us to know and stand upon. Now a person doesn't have to believe ~~in~~ in the absolute inerrancy of the Word of God in order to be saved. There are a great many people who know very little, but who know Christ and are saved. But if a person's influence is to count as it should, if a person's stand is going to be what it should through life, if a person is going to be sure not to lead others into error, it is very vital that he stand on this essential foundation truth. That this Word is God's Word, that it is true, that it is free from error. Now interpreters can make errors. Translators may make errors. Transcribers may make errors, and particularly drawn taken out of context we can all make errors. But God wants us on the essential, basic foundation to be sure that we stand solidly for that.

Years ago I used to see churches that would be vacant, and a great godly man perhaps died or moved away who had been pastor, and they would get a new pastor and the attitude that people took as a rule was, Well, I don't like that man's voice. I don't like the cut of his hair. I don't like the kind of clothes he wears. His wife's general manner doesn't appeal to me. Those were the sort of criticisms that they raised. And I've seen church after church have a godly man