

But inevitably there come those who see mistakes in what you say; who see you've made guesses; you've taken your stand on things on which there is no clear evidence. Then another human tendency comes into play -- they turn against you completely. There is many a man who has been turned against great clear Christian doctrine because someone who held those doctrines, spoke just as dogmatically about a lot of questionable things as he did about the great clear things. I think it very important we recognize this, that our propositional revelation which we can stand upon and must stand upon, gives us only a partial knowledge. There are many data which are not available to us, and there are many concepts that are not available to us. You ask a little child who has never seen a banana what a banana is, and he's quite lost. He doesn't have the data. Then you hold up the banana in front of him, and say, Here's a banana. Now he knows what a banana is. But now you ask him what it tastes like, and he cannot tell you. He has to have the experience of tasting the banana before he can even attempt to describe what it tastes like, and I'm not sure any one of us can describe the taste of a banana in a way that will convey our meaning to people who have not themselves tasted a banana. There are data and concepts that are not available to us. So when we try to explain all the things of the universe, when we try to explain God, His nature, and His plan, we go beyond what is clearly taught in Scripture and we very quickly get into areas in which we either do not have the data, or do not have the concept.

I think an illustration of this would be worth taking time to give. Ancient man, in fact man up to within a few centuries, knew one fact, and if he was careful, thoughtful and observant he might know another. These two facts seem to contradict one another because