

Or there would be some reference to the resurrection and he'd say, "I'm not dealing with that! Whether you believe in that or not, the Scripture clearly teaches the virgin birth." And in the course of his talk on the virgin birth he might take a dozen other Christian doctrines and very carefully avoid taking any stand on them.

The next day he might take one of these others, and that day, as far as the virgin birth is concerned, we're not talking about that now! You may deny that, but that's not what we're talking about. We're talking about this doctrine! Well, I think there is value in sticking to the subject, but the way he did it gave you the impression of a man walking on eggs. Just afraid of one that might crack. Just the one thing he was going to get across and afraid of his life that he might something that might offend somebody! in relation to these other matters.

God wants us to stand forthright for His truth. He wants us not to compromise on the great truths of the Scripture. Not to compromise on the dependability of the Word of God. Never to compromise with the deity of Christ. Never to compromise with the necessity of believing in Christ for salvation. The only hope the world has.

I remember hearing of a meeting in Wilmington some years ago. One of my colleagues went to it, and he said that in this meeting which was intended to get the sound ministers of the ~~area~~ area together to make a strong stand for the Word of God, he said, that one of the ministers kept repeating the statement "Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints," and another one kept saying "The servant of the Lord must not strive." And they were going back and forth about ten times, one quoted this verse and one quoted the other verse. Of course both verses are true. And correctly understood both verses are very important. But the one who was constantly bringing in that other verse when the purpose of the meeting was to get a real stand for the Lord, was an indication of just how subtle Satan is in leading us into compromising our faith.

You don't realize it at this moment, in this point in your education most of you, but when you get out into the Lord's work you will find when time after time you are tempted to compromise on some great essential of the faith. Satan will try to work his schemes to get you into a compromising position, on one of these great doctrines.

But if he can't succeed that way he'll pull this way. I think very often the opposite of it causes not as much harm in the Christian world, but perhaps a comparable amount of harm. That is, putting our stress on that which is not essential. How easy it is for that to happen. I've known people who have been in a denomination or in an individual church where a little unbelief was introduced, and then a little more and a little more. And it would get to where the Bible was being denied, Christ was being denied. The whole emphasis was being put upon human