

and in depriving Douglas for that for which he had been working cleverly and skillfully for many many years. Now if you read the life of Douglas,--almost any life of Douglas that you read,-- you will find it stated that after the election before Lincoln was inaguarated when the southern states began to succeed one by one, Douglas delcared his loyalty to the Union, and they say that when Lincoln was inaguarated Douglas sat on the platform behind him and held his hat while he made the inaguaral address. Then they will tell you he asked Lincoln what he could do to help in bringing an end to the succession.

Lincoln said, You have tremendous influence in the north-western states. I wish you would go out there and speak for the Union." Douglas went out and did that. But unfortunately after two or three months of his campaign there, he got pneumonia and died. Well, a historical scholar read that account and he decided that he must investigate this important question: Did Douglas actually hold Lincoln's hat during the inaguration. And he spent years of careful investigation going through all the evidence he could find within the present century. It had to be pretty old. He had to get all the newspapers. He had to get all the letters he could get from anybody who had written at the time in 1861 when Lincoln was inaguarated.

He spent years of carefully scholarly study in order to determine whether Douglas held Lincoln's hat. In conclusion of it he declared that actually Douglas did support Lincoln in that great crisis. He did sit on the platform there. He did do everything he could to help him. But he did not hold his hat! Now there's scholarship! There is a kind of scholarship which is alas quite common today in literary circles. A scholarship that takes some very minor fact, some very unimportant thing, and spends a great deal of time and ffort trying to determine what the truth is.

If someone wants a good scholarly investigation to make that might get him a Ph.D. in some university, I would suggest that he go out here up beyond the elementary school, and beyond it on the left there is an area where there are little trees and bushes and you would think it was just an area with nothing in it. But you get in there and you'll fund a paved road in the middle of it-- broken up to some extent. The remains of some little buildings by the side, in utter ruin lying there. Who put up those buildings? What was the purpose of the paved road in the middle of that wilder-ness area? What was the history of it? I imagine that 40 or 50 years ago some rather interesting things happened. One could spend three or four years investigation old records, trying to get the precise history of that small area so near the seminary. I'm sure there are many universities where one could receive a Ph.D. for a good investigation of it.

And the investigation would get you a skill in sseeking facts. In learning to work out what the truth is about certain matters. There would be value in it for yourself. But whether there would be a value to anybody else, I am highly skeptical! There is a great temptation ~~in xxxxxxxxxx~~ for people in the field of theological studies to think that studying what this particular obscure man 400 years ago thought about this doctrine would be of tremendous importance.