

What I said is intended by no means to denigrate or under-rate what I would call true scholarship. I would think that for the Christian there is nothing more important than going to the Scripture and studying it carefully in order to find exactly what it means.

I once visited a friend in Denver. As I stood with him in his home at the front of a high door facing west, I looked at at those great rocky mountains with the sun shining upon them. in the morning hours. How I envied him. If there was ever a man in my life I envied perhaps it was that man who every morning could look out at that marvellous view of those rocky mountains. I could not describe that view to you. I could not tell you about each of the mountains and the little spaces between them that were illuminated by the rising sun. The beauty of the particular snow fields. The particular rock cliffs and so on. I could not give you a real picture of it. I could give you a bare hint is all I could give you. But I could get much from looking at it and far more from studying it.

God's revelation is like that. God enabled the prophets and apostles to look at visions of his truth. As they saw those visions they had great ideas of God's truth which they put into words. But you cannot truly give a full picture of truth in words. So what they gave they did not fully understand as we read in 1 Peter. They were wondering what or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ who was in them did signify when he testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and of the glories that should follow.

But we can take their words and study them and try to see exactly what they mean. And now not skip over things with superficial answers. I believe God has much more truth to bring out of His Word than has yet been found by the Christian church.

I was looking just a couple of days ago into the ~~EBbbb~~ Berkeley version of the NT, a translation made by Dr. Verskuyl. He's got some good renderings. He was a Christian man. But when he came to 2 Thess. where it speaks of the man of sin to be revealed and it goes on to say and you know what hinders that he should be revealed. But when that which hinders is taken away then the man of lawlessness will be revealed. He has a footnote and the footnote says: That which hinders doubtless refers to the Roman empire which gave the Christians certain protection from Jewish persecution. And the Roman emperor is probably referred to two vv. earlier as the man of sin.

Well if he's the man of sin two vv. earlier, he's the man of lawlessness in that very same verse and to say the Roman empire is that which hinders the revealing of the Roman empire is such utter nonsense, but it just shows how easy it is for skillful intelligent Christian people to be satisfied with superficial interpretations. It's amazing as you look through commentaries how often they simply copy from each other and often copy wrongly. And how often they will take one thing and give you some truth on it, and then on the other aspects they will make guesses without