

inquiry and eventually figured out the date was on which she had written the letter and which one had visited her that day. She wrote and told me and I got the letter six weeks after I had sent it, and I could not remember what the question was!

Interpretation of a revelation is not necessarily a simple matter. One can easily misunderstand words; one can misunderstand a diagram; one can misunderstand aptitude. But the way to find out is to go back to that revelation and examine it and get the facts and find out exactly what it means. I believe that one of the things that God is particularly distressed about today is the fact that so many of His people, instead of when they reach a new problem and get a new difficulty, going to the Word of God and studying and trying to learn what the Word has to say about that matter, they listen to what this person says and that person and the other person.

They listen to what this theologian says or this philosopher says. They do not go back to the revelation and study it and try to learn what it says about that subject, or whether in fact it actually does discuss it--that particular subject or not. Oh so often I hear people talk about the biblical doctrine of such-and-such. I think, Where is this biblical doctrine they are talking ~~xxxx~~ about? Where can I find it in the Bible? Often I don't think it's there at all!

But it's all too easy for us to be interested in what other people say. To be interested in the ideas of human beings instead of going to the Word of God which is our revelation from God and getting directly from it by careful study answers to the question: Does it deal with this matter and if it does, what does it say? We can't always tell whether it deals with the matter or not at first sight.

Very often I've read a section of the Bible through several times and I've gotten much from it. But then I study a different section of the Bible and I have a question raised in my mind about what I'm reading--something I don't understand. I think of another part that I had been reading and I remember that from that part I get something that fits with this part and gives me the answer to the question. Often it does not come as easily as that. But if I read and study and note not merely what I can get from it but what the problems are, what the questions are, what the things that are not answered as I study it, I find that later when I'm studying another portion of the Bible, There it is! There's the answer to this here which I wondered about when I read this section.

The interpretation of a revelation may be difficult, it may be hard. We may spend our whole lives on it, but God will lead us if we give it its place it should have in our lives as going to His revelation rather than to the thoughts of men, to the writings of men, even to the most brilliant. But going to what He has said and studying it and filling our minds with it and getting not merely answers but problems and questions in order that in another part of Scripture where the answer to that is when we study that part are finally prepared to see that it is there!