

Now if God then is the Creator, and if He has created us with minds which can have fellowship with one another, spirits that are similar to His in that they can make choices, they can make important decisions. They are not simply the result of accidents moving, the result of circumstances playing upon them but that we do have the power to make choices. It would be strange indeed if He did not attempt to have some sort of communication with the creatures whom He has produced.

That is of course our fundamental belief about the Bible. That in the Bible God has given us a revelation. He has spoken, and continues to speak through it. We need to have careful study to determine the text of God's Word, and I personally believe that God intended that we should have to have such study. I don't think God intended that the Bible should be absolutely in such a way that we would have no question as to what the words were in every verse of Scripture. If that was His intention He could easily have given us a Scripture in which there would be no question that we always had the correct words. He could have written it upon tables of stone and kept these stones in a place like the Standard kept in Washington where the temperature would be kept exactly the same. Where nothing could be that would change these stones. No possibility of a little piece of a letter being torn, or being changed into another letter. That we would have exactly the original words that He had given.

But God did not give us a Scripture in which the words were as precise. We can be very very sure about the text of Scripture, but there are points at which we cannot be sure exactly. I believe God intentionally did that because He wanted us to realize that language is a very shaky, very slippery method of conveying truth. Words in any language have a variety of meanings. Phrases have a variety of meaning. The way you put the words together affect their meaning tremendously. These are constantly changing from time to time. So the Lord wanted us to understand that in order to get exactly the truth He has for us we must compare Scripture with Scripture, and we must study what we have there and the very fact that one particular verse taken by itself may have a textual error of which we have no evidence, the very fact that there is that possibility is a safeguard, a warning that we must compare Scripture with Scripture. We must do our best to get the exact correct text. We must realize when we get through with it we do not have a text of which we can be 100% sure. These are the exact words. We can be sure we are very close, but to get God's truth we have to compare text with text, Scripture with Scripture.

As words change, ideas change, approaches change, God knew from the very beginning how words and ideas would change through the ages. He gave us His Word in such a way that in every age it would give us the correct meaning that He wants us to have.

Now Satan is very anxious to keep us from understanding God's Word. He has attacked God's Word through the ages. He has made it difficult for people to get access to God's Word. He has led them to put all sorts of other things between them and God's Word. One of the greatest victories Satan has had in that regard is in regard to the Jews. I was much interested taking a course at the U. of Pa.