

and character and to give some idea of the provision that He intended to make for deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. After the atonement was accomplished at Calvary these symbols and symbolic actions were no longer necessary. We no longer need them to enable us to look forward to the fulfillment of God's wonderful promises. A briefer ceremonial law has been substituted because God's people can now look back and see precisely what occurred and how the earlier ceremonial law has been fulfilled.

It is sometimes said that it is impossible for us to approach a book without its interpretation being greatly altered by our own prejudices and ideas. This extreme statement should be sharply denied. Yet it is important to note that the greatest danger in hermeneutics is that of reading our own ideas into the Bible. This applies not only to ideas we have derived from other sources than the Bible, but, in some cases, even to ideas that we find in other parts of the Bible. Ultimately hermeneutics requires the comparison of all related passages, yet prejudgment that a certain passage simply repeats what is contained in another passage may prevent us from finding its true teaching. Even if a passage seems to contradict what we know to be true doctrine, we should not simply explain it away, but should examine it very carefully. If correctly understood it may modify our understanding of some detail of a doctrine, or it may add a new facet or idea that would not otherwise have occurred to us. It is good to get our prejudgments out on the table and to examine them carefully, and then to impartially examine each passage to see whether it is in line with them, whether it is in opposition to them, or whether it gives insights that have little relation to the idea that first occurred to us. We should carefully examine each word, sentence and