

In recent times there have been three principal attitudes toward the interpretation of the Bible, which have been called, in very general and not particularly accurate terms: conservative, liberal, and radical. They may be characterized briefly as follows. The conservative believes that the Bible means what it says, and that what it says is true. The liberal twists the meaning of the Bible to get something from it which is very different from the natural meaning of the words. The radical takes the Bible as meaning what it says, but considers it to be untrue.

Let us examine these three attitudes toward the resurrection of Christ. The conservative says that the Bible account means what it says, that Christ was raised from the dead in a real body, and that He walked about and talked with His disciples, eating with them, and even allowing them to touch Him. The liberal says that all this is figurative language, indicating a "spiritual resurrection", "the great principle of permanence of personality", or the living on of the influence of the personality of Christ in the hearts of His followers. The radical admits readily that the gospels tell of a physical resurrection, but claims that these books are late and unreliable.

In such a matter as that of the resurrection, it is easy to see the bearing of the different attitudes. Christianity is built upon belief in the actual bodily resurrection of our Lord. The true Christian gladly takes the statements of the gospels about the