

d.3. (12 3/4)

14.

a much larger amount of precision of meaning than the Lord intended to have in these particular sentences. Thus if a statement is made that a city is a long way from another city, the term is quite relative. From , when the father of the prodigal son lifted up his eyes and saw him a long ways off, he probably, he would hardly have been more than a mile away. But if we say that Rome was a long ways off from Jerusalem, we are speaking in a different area altogether. Such general terms vary as to the amount of precision involved in them and we are so apt to forget this and try to squeeze too much meaning out of one verse that it is my personal conviction that the Lord has intentionally permitted a certain amount of variation to come in to the preservation of the manuscript in order to guard us against the natural tendency to attempt to read too much into it...

d.4. (1/4)

...The great teachings of the Scripture are stressed and emphasized in various places. In order to get a firm grasp on the Word of God we must compare Scripture with Scripture, and get the meaning by putting together the various aspects of truth that are ~~not~~ found in different places. In my opinion more harm has been done, great harm has been done in the Christian church by the building of big arguments on isolated verses. ~~Every verse~~

Actually, the amount of evidence we have regarding the preservation of the manuscripts is many times greater for the Bible than for ~~or~~ any other work from antiquity. We can be very, very close to the precise original manuscripts and yet not quite at them. There is the necessity of careful examination of textual data wherever variants occur. Where a variant--where there is no evidence of variation there is still a possibility of an error having come in in transmission, but the possibility is extremely slight. The result is that--I feel that in the case of any one isolated verse on which there is no evidence of textual variation, there ~~is~~ is always the possibility of an error, always an extremely slight possibility of an error having occurred in the course of transmission. However, given two such verses the possibility of error having come in in both of them is so slight as to be