

Another illustration of this sort of fruitless division was the great argument in the early church over the date of Easter. This controversy raged throughout the church until finally a view won out which sets the date of each Easter in a certain arbitrary relation to the full moon and the vernal equinox, so that today few can even guess when Easter will be observed in any particular year. Until 1936 the Greek Orthodox church and the western churches celebrated Easter at different times, and two great Easter celebrations were held in Jerusalem each year. If it had been important that we know the precise date of Easter God would have given us clear information about the matter.

If we are truly to serve the Lord our first great objective must be to win souls to Him. The outreach of the knowledge of salvation through Christ is the most important work of the Christian church. Along with this, and of almost equal importance, is the building up of Christians in the faith. This does not mean arguing with them about minor points on which the Scripture is not clear, but it means helping them to develop a personal spiritual relationship with Christ in which they feed constantly on His Word and grow in grace.