

Prophets (8)

passage to take to start a discussion on?" "We're interested in the matter of some particular moral trouble. What shall we start with in the Scripture?" And he introduced these discussion classes which really took a subject and went to the Scripture to read a little something and then start talking and putting all the ideas he could into your head on the particular subject. Well, now the, a very natural approach to the Scripture is the idea, "Here is the Scripture. It is like an encyclopedia. It is a mine of material. Here's a subject we want to know about. Let's go and see what the Bible has to say about it. Let's see what it teaches on this thing." Well now that, there are places where that is the right approach, but ordinarily speaking, for those who should be Christian leaders, that is the wrong approach to the Scripture. The right approach to the Scripture in my opinion is, "Here is the Bible. What does it say?" Not, "What does it say about a certain subject?" but "what does it say?" What are the things that it presents as important? What does it stress? What does it emphasize? " It is as if I believe the whole Bible, that doesn't mean that I think everything in it is true but I pick out fifty verses that I think are important. It doesn't mean that. It means that I think that God has given me there that which He wants me to know and it is vital for me to understand just as much of it as possible, and so I feel that the correct approach to the Scripture is to take a book and say, "What do I find in this book?" Take a chapter. Take a section. Study it through and see what you find taught there. Then after you have done a certain amount of that, when you have questions in your mind as to the fuller understanding of certain things you go to other passages that you have studied and you relate them to these and you compare them together, you compare Scripture with Scripture, but drawing proof texts or drawing unrelated passages out from sections you haven't studied on a particular subject in order to get a conclusion as to what the Bible teaches on that subject is very apt to lead you into great error in your interpretation. I think the proper approach to the Scripture is, "What does the Scripture want to talk about and what does it say about it?" rather than, "What do I find in the Scripture about this