

R 5

and so I think that we might take part of the rest of this hour now in looking into that problem a little bit, the problems in general of the rapture.

Now in the study of that the question, of course, before us is, "What is the truth regarding this?" I think that it is a wrong approach to this or to any other Scriptural problem to approach it in the first instance--I mean any large Scriptural problem--with this question, "Which of two views is the correct one?" I think that is a mistake. I think our approach should be, "What does the Scripture teach?" If we spend our time with two views contrasting each other, deciding it looks this way or that, we may miss a third view which is the correct view. I think we must always be on the lookout regarding any passage to see whether it teaches this or teaches that or teaches something else or whether it is clear from this passage what it teaches. I mean in relation to a particular thing. Everything in the Scripture teaches, but one part of the Scripture may be teaching one thing and may have implications on another and it may or may not, and therefore it is very vital that we ask ourselves the question, "Just what do we definitely get from this verse? What is plus 10 or what is only plus 5? What can we say is definitely excluded by this verse? What is minus 10 or what is minus 5? And so I think that it is very important that we try to avoid getting an attitude, "Here's a view and there's a view and we must stand for this view or we must stand for that view." We may find either of the two views the correct one; we may find some other is the correct one, but let's go at it with this idea, "What does the Scripture teach? Does each particular passage teach something definitely or does it--of course it does teach something definitely, but on a particular subject, does it teach definitely or does it imply, does it leave something as a possibility or something as certainly excluded by it? What does each passage teach and on what point is it silent?" Now hypotheses and guesses are often necessary and very important. If you come to any study with an open mind so that everything goes straight out through an empty pipe, why you are apt to finish it with