

Isaiah 5

or particular Spiritual lessons that can be gained from sections or verses and all that is very good, but I think it sidesteps that which is most vital. Of course I know that is important in getting the answer to that which is most vital and the answer to that which is most vital in turn throws light upon that, as in any field of science, it is a matter of gathering facts, making hypotheses, testing the hypotheses by the facts to see whether they stand or not, gathering new facts, seeing whether your hypotheses stand the test of the new facts and seeing how the new facts may fit into the hypotheses. Every science must move forward that way and theology, if it is to be true, must be a science which consists of the interpretation of those facts which God has given us in His Word, and a constant endeavor to examine those facts and see how they fit together, make up our interpretations in such a way that they fit all the facts and be ready at every point of our interpretation to ^{change it and to} alter it as we find facts that do not fit with our previous interpretation. There are too many people who think of theology as, "if you stand in a railroad station you find a railroad running this way and one this way and one this way, and the question is simply to get on the right track and you just keep going and that's all there is to it. It is not like that at all. It is more like a science in which you have the facts, you gather them together, on certain big basic matters you find things quite clearly taught in the Scripture. You take them as a foundation to stand on. Every now and then you test and check to see what there is that might even possibly raise a question about it, and when you find such a thing it is not enough to do as so many theologians do, to explain it away, deal with a verse in such a way that when you get through with it it means nothing at all. Every verse in the Scripture has a meaning for us. Certainly, if we have a great principle taught clearly in the Scripture, we will not find any verse in the Scripture which denies that principle but when we find one which seems to deny it we have not done sufficiently by simply interpreting the verse in such a way