

shriveled up and died, but the soldiers were standing there for the next two hundred years. Nobody knew why they did. (laughter)

Well it is very easy, similarly, not only easy but it is a fact, whether it be government, whether it be church, whether it will be anything, you will find that similar things that exist. There are habits, there are customs, which have had a very good reason, but the reason has disappeared, and the usage still continues. You will find that, and I think it is interesting and worthwhile to note. But it is not the way to determine ~~the~~ God's will as to how the church should be conducted, as to how it should be governed, as to how we should worship. There is one way to determine God's will and that is to study His Word and see what that Word teaches. Exegesis, study in the Hebrew and the Greek, in the original Scripture, is the way to determine the meaning of the Bible. Now, when you take Christian people and take the general attitude which they have, which they have had, the ~~the~~ finest of Christian people, a great group ~~of~~ them, you will find the attitude toward certain things tremendously emphasized, and certain things never touched. And ~~the~~ often the things that are tremendously emphasized are very little emphasized in the Scripture, and sometimes they never touch things that are tremendously stressed in the Scripture.

It is most interesting, for instance, to go through the Bible and see how much it says about the Second Coming of Christ. Much in the Old Testament, a tremendous amount in the O.T., and yet how many very very fine Christian churches stressign the great doctrines of the ~~the~~ Word have just paid absolutely no attention to this. Why on earth? It was not customary to do this. But ~~the~~ it is not custom that determines what God wills. It is important that we know not only what the Bible teaches about a certain subject, but what is the relative emphasis of the Bible, what things are stressed. What is stressed, there, God wants us to stress. You look at the New Testament and you will find that over a dozen times in the N.T. the command is given, watch ye, for ye know not the day nor the hour when the Lord returns. Be vigilant, be on your guard, be serving the Lord constantly,