

Now a man in the forest like that if he has a map is in an altogether position from one who does not. If he has a map, if he has a compass, or if he can see the sun and learn something of direction and put his map down right.

I have gone a good bit in the wilderness areas with a topographic map which the U.S. Govt. has prepared. These maps have a tremendous amount of information in a little space. They show the rises and falls; they show the streams; they show a great deal about the nature of the country. But you have to learn to read them. It is very easy to misread them. It is very easy to be mistaken about them. You have to learn all about what these different little marks mean. Well, the Bible is much the same way. The person can just take the Bible and take a verse out of context and he may get a wonderful truth. Or he may get a complete misunderstanding. "Thy Word is truth." God wants us to understand the truth. He wants us to learn to get into it and see just what it really means.

I call your attention for instance to Is.53:4. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did Him smitten, stricken of God and afflicted." What a wonderful truth is there! The truth of the atonement. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins, who carried our sins on the cross and took them away from us. A marvellous truth is it not? But if you look closely at it you find that these words "griefs" and "sorrows" are very very general translations for specific words. The Hebrew means "Surely He has borne our pains and carried away our diseases . . ." Well that's quite different isn't it? He has taken away our pains. He has taken away our diseases. This is not talking about His death on the cross at all. That's a marvellous truth of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins. There is nothing more important in all the Scripture. But ~~XXXXX~~ if we are going to read that out of every verse we find, we will miss other things that the Lord has there for us. He wants us to know what this really means. He has carried away our sicknesses and taken away our diseases.

Does that mean then that there is no excuse for any of us to ever be sick? Well, we know that it's a fact we are sick. It is a fact that everyone who is living 200 years ago has had some sickness bad enough to put an end to his life. Jesus has not taken away all the sicknesses in this life. That's not what this is talking about. What is it talking about? Scripture makes it very clear what it is talking about.

Turn to Mat. 8:16,17, "When the evening was come they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils and he cast out the spirits with His word and healed all that were sick. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isa. the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and did bear our sicknesses." Matthew tells us what this means. This is a prediction of the healing work of Christ when He was here on earth. Now many Bibles have a reference not only to Mat. 8:16 but also to 1 Pet. 2:24, which is a marvellous statement of the atonement. Quoting words from the next verse. But the only thing it has in common with "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" is the one word "borne." There is nothing else similar between them.