

But then if they go to college and find educated people — people of learning and high character — who hold these views and believe they have been proved, the next step for the child is to give up all regard for everything you have taught him and in the end to decide that you are one who is the numbskull rather than those who hold the other view.

Those who are to be leaders of God's flock need to think these questions through and not merely to say, "How far can I keep away from that? Here is a precipice. I don't want to go over the precipice, so I won't stay on the road; I will climb up the mountain side and go along there." It is far better to do that than to roll off the precipice, but those who are to be leaders in Christian work, some of them at least, should think these things through and find the place of progress which does not go over into error or into fanaticism, but makes progress in a direction which can be useful and helpful. People may differ as to where that line is, but it is right that we should seek it for ourselves, and I believe that the cause of God is best served by our endeavoring to do so.

There was a man who wrote a letter in which he said, "How perfectly silly it is to deny the numerical structure of the New Testament." He said, "Don't you know that every paragraph in the Greek New Testament has a number of verses divisible by seven and a number of words divisible by seven, and a number of letters divisible by seven?" As long as you tell people that do not know any Greek that every paragraph in the Greek New Testament has a number of verses divisible by seven and a number of words divisible by seven and a number of letters divisible by seven, and they believe you, they may be more apt to believe in the inspiration of the Scripture than they would be otherwise. So perhaps you are doing a good work, but the trouble is that one of them might get hold of a Greek New Testament and might find that even without knowing Greek, he could count the number of verses, of words, and of letters in a paragraph, and that it was only about once in every seven verses that one of these numbers would work out!