

and that is all there is to it--Yet Christ died on the cross--how perfectly foolish--where is the moral influence of it then. ILL. of burning one's arms in a bon-fire and expecting that suffering to change the lives of those who looked thereon--people would wonder why we didn't have sense to stay away from the fire. There is no moral influence to the atonement, unless there is truth to the atonement--it is positive, active and should have a tremendous influence on us and the same thing is true about the Bible--God will use His Word and cause it not to come back to Him void; He will follow it up with the influence of the Holy Spirit but a part of the work which He wants done and part of the way in which He wants us to use is for us to bring evidence that it is true; that it is indeed true and dependable, so we are dealing here with a question of truth. We are not merely using our human reason to decide whether this is important or not; we go to the Scripture itself and find the theme of truth very much emphasized--Note I Pet. 1:16--We have not followed what we have seen and know that it is a fact. Apostle John also, though the Apostle of love, stresses as much as anyone the importance of truth--Note the I John 1. We have seen and heard Him. Note Paul, the apostle in I Cor. 15--If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain. People say today just to tell this beautiful story and people will be moved thereby--it doesn't matter whether it is true or not. Paul said, "If Christ be not risen, then your faith is vain." Paul goes on to show that if in this life we have hope, we are of all men most miserable; also if we are just living for this life, let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. We are to understand the foundation on which we stand and make it clear and evident to others. Note John 8:32--John puts a great stress on this same truth. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Note also JOHN 16:13--the truth is again emphasized. JO. 17:17--"Sanctify them through thy Word--thy Word is truth. John 14:6 --"I am the way, the TRUTH, and the Life." Today there are many untruths spread around about Christianity which have no foundation and these people are kept from facing the real truth of Christianity--these questions are a form of smoke-screen that keep many from following. It is our task to show these people where Christianity is reasonable, and though we realize it is the Holy Spirit that brings that person to Christ, we can take this as a preliminary step to help people find the real truth concerning their problem of finding peace with God and we at the same time must be sure of what is the truth and not go beyond that nor come short of it.