

Here again we have the balancing. There is a pillar of cloud; ~~there~~ there is the absolute guidance, but there is the man needing to get information, needing to get help, needing to have a trumpet to pass on the word to others of the guidance the Lord had given him, needing to investigate, needing to make his decision. And in our lives God wants us to have the absolute certainty of the pillar of ~~fire~~ cloud, the pillar of fire; God will lead us. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, for God wants us ~~always~~ also to study things, to work them out, to get the best information we can, but without anxiety, because if we keep our eyes on Him there is never any need of anxiety or fearing because we know that the Lord is leading at all points and His plan/ is best, His wisdom is best. Now we will have to look further at the comparison of these two sides and see, we do not strike a midpoint between them; we emphasize them both, they are both tremendously important. But if we are truly born again through the Lord Jesus Christ, if we have been saved through His precious blood we can know the pillar of cloud and ~~the~~ pillar of fire is are there to lead us. But that does not excuse us from studying and planning and investigating, and seeking to determine the Lord's will, but knowing that in the midst of our seeking and planning and trying, if we keep our eyes on Him, He will lead, He will show us His ~~will~~ way, and lead us on in accordance with His purposes.

Let us pray:

Our Father we thank you for the evidences in your Word that we are not to take a passage by itself, no verse by itself, no chapter by itself, but we are to study the Scripture as a whole, and to see the balance that it has. And, oh, our Father, we know that we are not to seek a midpoint. Jesus Christ is not part God and part Man; He is entirely God and He is entirely man. We cannot overstress either point, but if we fail to stress the other, we miss a great part of the truth You have for us, and we may even fall into wicked heresies as a result of failing to get the proper balance. We thank You, our Father, that You are absolutely sovereign, and we thank You also that we have a responsibility and a duty to work things out the best we can. We thank you, our Father, for the pillar of cloud, the pillar of fire, which guided the Israelites, and for the pillar that guides us if we are truly born again, and keep our eyes on the Lord, but we thank you also that you have made so clear in Your Word too that we need to study to show ourselves approved to God, to work, to strive to accomplish Your purposes, to make our lives accomplish Your purposes for us. Be with us, we pray, and help us to make our efforts count in leading souls into the knowledge of Christ, and showing

Your people how they can grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.