

Dr. A. A. MacRae 5/10/49

must be taken on wicked men and crucified and must rise again the third day. Even they did not grasp it, and after His resurrection from the dead we find that the disciples had absolutely no expectation that He would be raised from the dead. They thought that His death was a cruel tragedy which ended the glorious life that He was leading on earth here, and He had to clarify and explain to them after His resurrection that/He had already explained during His time here. Now if that was the case with His disciples, how much more was it with the great mass of those with whom Jesus came in contact. After the resurrection had occurred, after people knew about the atonement, after they knew about the resurrection, then it is natural to assume these things and refer to them and discuss them and explain them and go on from there, but to start in with the people of Judea, talking to them, assuming these great things which were so vital during Christ's earthly ministry, would have been to quite an extent like a person going to kindergarten children and starting to explain Einstein's

to them. You have to move into a certain situation before you can understand a thing properly, and Christ gave us marvelous teachings in the gospels but He did not give them in that form that takes these doctrines quite so plainly and clearly as they were given in the epistles because the people were not yet ready to receive them. I remember Dr. Griffith's telling me an interesting story of his experience in a church up in Canada. He said that up there he began to preach on the subject that salvation is a free gift of God, that there is nothing we can do to earn it, and he said he preached on this day after day, Sunday after Sunday. He preached on this great theme of salvation, the free gift--there is nothing you can do to earn it. God must give it to you of His own free will, and said about the eighth time he gave it he saw an elderly man who always sat down there in the second pew who looked up at him and all of a sudden his face began to smile and he said the man looked as if a new thought had dawned on him, and after the service the man went up to him and he said, "Dr. Griffith," he said, "I had a new idea today while you were preaching." He said, "It dawned on me--I'd never understood it before--that salvation is a