

in that. I believe that it is vital that we go to the Bible as a source of data, that we go there to get the facts that God has revealed and that we study those facts exactly as we would study the facts of any science. See what it says about God -- ~~not~~ just think about what kind of a God you think there ought to be, what kind of a God does the Bible say there is? What is Christ? People talk in the most pious language about Christ who do not know Him at all; and our Lord has said that He will say to them, "Depart from Me, I never knew you." If you want to know Christ, the one way to find out truly what He is, is to read in the Scripture^s and see the facts that are there. Make hypotheses as you would in any science. Read a verse, an idea comes to you, then say, Well, now, maybe it's this way; let's look at other verses and see what fits with it; let's compare, and check, and examine, and see whether the hypothesis is right or wrong; but be sure that you make your hypothesis. One who has experimented in science knows that if he goes into an experiment definitely seeking something, he may find something else that he doesn't expect, but he's much more apt to find something than if he goes not looking for anything at all. Have a definite theory in mind and see whether the Scripture supports or disproves your theory. Take various matters of fact; make hypotheses, check them by the Scriptures, study it through. In this way you will get the factual information about God and His plans which is absolutely necessary if your life is to be correctly directed.

I often think of that incident of Christ on the Emmaus road. It is one in which I find constant rebuke/^{to} ~~for~~ myself. You remember that those disciples there on the Emmaus Road were men who had often studied the Scriptures, they knew the Old Testament well. And as they read the Old Testament, they read of the coming glory of Israel, and they read many things that rejoiced their hearts. But they noticed a little reference here to a Messiah as suffering and they may have thought that that was just symbolical language. They read another reference to a Messiah as being humiliated, "just a figurative expression." As they came to these different references to the death, crucifixion, and resurrection of the Messiah, they easily explained them away because they did not fit