

one of the most common things in the world and yet it is one of the most difficult. Yet the fact it is one of the most difficult doesn't prove that it isn't true.

There was an article in Fortune magazine a year or so ago entitled, What Is Happening to the Protestant Churches? One of their reporters told of his observations of various churches and he told of many interesting things in the article. What interested me perhaps most of all was his account of his visit with Paul Tillich in a hospital in Chicago shortly before Tillich's death. He said he spoke to Tillich and said, Tillich, do you believe in the deity of Christ? Tillich said, You have got me in a box. You're put me in a difficult position. What am I going to answer. Let me ask you a question: What do you mean by deity? Then Tillich ~~said~~ paused a couple of seconds and then looked at him and then said, Now I've got you in a box." You could see the reporter was rather disgusted at this attitude that because you can't explain what something means there it does not exist. The fact is we know it exists. We know people exist. We know that God exists. It does not mean we can explain it and understand everything about it. The fact we know this is God's Word does not mean we understand everything in it, or that we necessarily understand exactly how God gave it to us.

I think as Christians we can say, Whatever the Bible teaches I believe. But let's read it carefully and be careful we are not reading something into it that isn't there. All through history people have had different theories about the universe. And then Christians have been interested in showing that these theories were in the Bible. Very often they would take some very involved passage to prove that a certain idea is in the Bible and then when people give up that idea they say, Look that idea is out of date; the Bible taught this theory and now it's out of date."

Well the Bible didn't teach that theory in the first place. All through the Middle Ages people thought the Bible taught a flat world, and you will find many people today who will say Oh, we don't believe in a flat world; how can we believe in the Bible. I had an interesting experience about ten years ago --I got a letter from a young man who was at Rutgers U. and he said I'm connected with a Methodist fellowship for young folks here in the University, and he said we'd like to have a discussion of what you mean by Biblical Inspiration. I'm getting the dean of of a ~~seminary~~ seminary. This Dean was a graduate and a doctor from Union Theological Seminary. And now he was the dean of another modernist seminary. He said, We're getting him to present the liberal view, and he said, we'd like you to present the conservative. I was interested to be sure I'd have a fair opportunity to present my view so I wrote and asked him exactly what the procedure would be, and I ~~w~~ found the procedure would be that each of us would have 20 minutes to present our view. Then the audience would ask questions. They could question either one, but the other would have a chance to discuss the matter if he desired to do so. It seemed to me an absolutely fair arrangement so I agreed to go. I present my view and the other man presented his, and the first two questions were addressed to me. And each time I very carefully after I had answered said, Now I think Dr. So and So probably has