

Well, they could discuss with the most brilliant reasoning you could imagine. They could discuss these questions for months, but never get any satisfactory answer. There is absolutely no way for them to find out except for someone to go over there and see and bring back a message, or to read what someone has written who was there. When it comes to eternal things, to where the universe came from, how it became established, what its ultimate fate is and what its purpose is, there is absolutely no way anybody can tell except to get a revelation from the one who knows. So we have this revelation which God has given us. Its one of the simplest concepts, one of the commonest things in the world, yet it is one of the most difficult. The fact something is difficult does not prove it isn't true.

There was an article in FORTUNE magazine about a year and a half ago, entitled "What Is Happening to the Protestant Churches"? One of their reporters told of his observation of various churches and he had many interesting things in the article. One of the most interesting things in the article to me was his account of his visit with Paul Tillich at a hospital in Chicago, shortly before Tillich's death. He said, he spoke to Tillich and asked, Do you believe in the deity of Christ. Tillich said, Now you've got me in a box. You put me in a difficult position, what am I going to answer? He said, Let me answer by asking you a question: What do you believe by deity? Then he said, Tillich paused several seconds, looked at him and smiled, and said, Now I've got you in a ~~box~~ box." You could see the reporter was rather disgusted at this attitude. That because you can't explain what something means, therefore it does not exist. Well, we know it exists. We know God exists but that does not mean we can explain Him or understand everything about Him. The fact we know this is God's Word does not mean we understand everything in it, or necessarily understand exactly how God gave it to us. I think as Christians we should say, Whatever the Bible teaches I believe. But let's read it carefully and be sure we're 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 and 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 the Bible taught that theory and it's out of date! Well, the Bible did not teach it in the first place. All through the Middle Ages people thought the Bible taught a flat world. You find many people today who say, We don't believe in a flat world; we believe in the Bible?

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I had an interesting experience about 10 yrs. ago. I got a letter from the young man who was at Rutgers U., and he said I am connected with a Christian Fellowship for young folks here at the University, he was a student there, and he said, We'd like to have a discussion of what we mean by Biblical inspiration. He said, I'm getting the Dean of a Seminary -- this dean was a graduate and a doctor at Union Theo. Seminary, and now was the dean of another modernist seminary. He said, we're getting him to present the liberal view; we'd like you to present the conservative view. I was interested that I'd have a fair opportunity to present my view so I wrote and asked him exactly what the procedure would be. I