

Some years ago I was associated with a man whom I frequently heard make this statement; he said: "I don't believe in making people Christian in one step, and then making them Reformed Christians in a second step." He said, "Let's make them Reformed Christians in one step." Well, now, even though this man had a Ph.D; even though he was considered as a great thinker, I think that that statement put him definitely in the ~~xxx~~ class of those who are sheep without a shepherd. Because a Christian is one who is saved through Christ, and a Reformed Christian is one who is saved through ~~God~~ Christ who enjoys the blessings that come from understanding God's sovereignty and these ^{great} wonderful teachings ~~that come from~~ of predestination. And they are two distinct things. ^{a Reformed Christian} And to say, ~~XX~~ "Let's make a person/in one step." ~~does not make~~ "Let's not make them a Christian first, and then a Reformed Christian second." is ~~not~~ utter lunacy, in my opinion. It simply does not make sense. Look at what Paul did. Paul gave us his epistles. And of course they are not arranged in the Bible in the order in which he wrote them. They are arranged in the Bible in the order of the doctrines they contain. And you look at the first ones; the first half of Romans; I Corinthians; II Corinthians and Galatians. And in those epistles Paul is talking about the man who is lost in sin, ~~and how~~ and how he needs to see himself as a sinner, needs to turn to Christ as ~~our~~ Saviour. He is talking about how we, as ambassadors for Christ, beseech you, ~~he~~ "Be ye ~~reconciled~~ ~~reconciled~~ reconciled to God." and the primary impact of these epistles is the message of salvation through ~~God~~ Christ. And then, after the man has become a Christian, after he has begun to ~~grow~~ grow in the Chrⁿ life, then Paul gives us Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, to ~~show~~ show that man how to grow in the Chrⁿ life, to show how to follow Christ, to show how to get that confidence and joy in life that he should have, because he can look back and see one man came through an emotional appeal, one man came through ^alogical thinking through, one man came through an impulse he doesn't understand; he ~~doesn't~~ know how different ones came, but he looks back and he sees now that God was controlling, God was