

to be stressed so much that while there is much of significance for the carrying on of the Christian life in the N.T., it is also quite natural to expect there to be a great deal in the OT that is valuable in this regard. We noticed then that the OT is a great source of spiritual lessons for the Christian. We noticed that these lessons were not all of them immediately apparent.

In the assignment for next time there is a reference to a verse in 1 Cor. 9, and in these two verses that the assignment refers to there is a statement that might not seem immediately apparent. Paul says in vs. 9, "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes?" Does that mean that this in the OT has nothing to do with us? That would be foolish, certainly not. That is its immediate significance. But Paul says it has a spiritual significance which is far greater as far as they are concerned than its relation to oxen. I will not speak more about that verse now because it is in the assignment next week for those who are taking this for credit. But the spiritual lessons for Christians are not always immediately apparent. We gave one or two illustrations of this last week, and then we went on to point out last week that it is not merely words but principles. And I feel that that is a tremendously important principle in relation to the whole Bible. It is wonderful to pick out a few words and note these words and have in them exactly the great wonderful teachings that we want to have, but ordinarily any sentence, any phrase has to be interpreted in the light of context, and it would be very easy to select verses in the Bible and quote from passages and give ideas that would be utterly false using the very methods that are used a great deal by Christian interpreters. Now I do not feel like making a great attack on those who do this, because most of them are actually presenting important Christian truths. They get a truth in one part of the Bible, something clearly taught and then very often they simply take some words that really have nothing at all to do with that truth and quote them and use them off for it. And possibly the ^{people} ^{who} have been given great spiritual benefit from having truth presented