

strongly in the light of this word believe, belief. I believe whatever the Bible teaches. Believe is a strong word isn't it. Well, you know last year I saw an old friend. I have not seen him for a long time. Was it June or July? Well, I believe it was July, but I'm not quite sure. You see the use of the word believe there. What does it mean? I guess. It seems to me so. Yet as we use it in our Christian churches ^{circles} what we believe, we believe and die(?). We believe the Bible. It is a tremendously strong word. But we use the word believe, and as I think of some of these problems that have been discussed in recent days here, I find myself thinking of my own theory, my own model on a certain matter, and I find myself saying, I don't agree with any of those folks, I believe it's this way. Then I stop and say, I did not mean to use the word believe that way. I merely mean it is my opinion, this is my idea. Well, we have that problem with the Bible.

Words are used to convey meanings to the people at the time, and God did not give us a whole encyclopedia explaining all the matters. Perhaps a whole new vocabulary in order to be absolutely precise in our understanding.

So we have a big problem with the understanding of the Bible. Because for one thing of the matter of words, the variation in the use of words. That is a problem in the understanding of anything. It is not an insuperable problem. I believe that almost any sentence in any language is capable of two or three interpretations. But you take the sentence in context, and you narrow it down greatly. Thus we can get certainly great basic matters in the Bible.. We know that God is. We know that God created us, that God created the universe. We know that God is a God of love. We know that God has a good purpose in all that He does. We know that we are sinners. We know that we deserve nothing good at the hands of God. But we know that God in His great love sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die on Calvary's cross that we might be saved through Him. There are certain matters which we know. These matters do not rest on one difficult verse in Scripture, any of them. They don't rest