

(Lec. 17:17)

Some of us aren't so much interested - perhaps everybody here is - but the world at large, many, many people aren't much interested. Others of us tremendously enjoy learning new truths. To learn new facts. I said this morning, I turned to Mr. Koontz and said, My I've got to go over and make two talks today. I'd rather just stay studying. I'm learning new facts all the time. I hate to leave them. Some of us have that temptation - just want to learn more and more. God wants us to learn all we can. He wants us to get the truth. But He wants us to get the truth for a purpose. He gives us the truth that we may use it. How does He want it used?

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy world is truth. The purpose of God's truth is to sanctify God's people. It is to accomplish His purposes in the world. Christians are so ready to divide into little segments arguing over things that aren't clear in the Scriptures. If Jesus wants us to make a separation with another Christian over some matter He will make it clear in His word. We are brothers if we are saved through Christ, and to make a division over something that the Scripture has not made clear is dishonoring to the Lord. His truth is something that is for our sanctification, for our development in the faith. That is the purpose of His truth.

Dr. Robt. Dick Wilson, that great student of the OT, great defender of the faith, used to say to us, Young men, God did not send you into the world to explain all the mysteries of the universe. He did not send you to go out and explain to people all the truth about things that they perhaps don't know anything about. He didn't send you to solve all the difficult questions. He sent you to preach the Gospel. In other words, He sent us to be His instruments for the accomplishing of His purpose.

So there are two aspects of the Scriptures. If Scripture were simply a presentation of truth, God might have given us a book like a book of geometry: Proposition #1 - There is a God. What do we mean by God? What are the details about it? How do we distinguish the right concepts from the wrong? He might have given us a straight book of logical principles right straight down. These are the truths I want you to have. But He did not do that. He gave us a book that has the most wonderful poetry, the most interesting stories, divine presentations of how God has worked in history and gave us His truth in such a way as to get at the people's hearts, not merely to present it. It does give precise statements of truth. We can stand on what we find in the Bible, but what we find there is for a purpose.

So the Scripture not only has the purpose of giving truth; it has the purpose of accomplishing God's will. Isaiah said in ch. 55, My word shall not come back to me void, but shall accomplish that for which I sent it. You hear about people who from studying the word of God get things out of it that aren't even there! Simply the words and something that God wanted them to have. He has gotten to them through the word. I don't believe that any of us should go out and preach things in connection with a verse that we don't find there. I think God wants us to learn just what the truth is. But God uses His Word in ways we never dream of. "Sanctify them through thy word,