

through thy truth." God uses the word. The word is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. So when you hear someone else giving something that is presenting God's truth as taught in the Scripture as a whole, but tying it to a verse that doesn't teach it, it's not our place to look down on that person, or to criticize him unnecessarily. He gives us real truth. If we have a chance quietly and kindly to help him in his understanding of but if he's giving God's truth let's praise God that the truth is being given even though it is being tied to something that does not really present it.

They say that Augustine - I'm not sure this is true because I got this from a secondary source, and I did not have time to check it -- but I did read that Augustine said that Uriah the Hittite represented the devil. That is the devil is Uriah. And just as the world is in the grip of the devil, so Bathsheba belonged to Uriah the Hittite, belonged to the devil. And David from the top of his palace looked down and saw Bathsheba who belonged to Uriah, who represents the devil, and David said -- took her and brought her to himself, and that represented the power of God, how Jesus Christ comes down and takes us away from the grip of the devil and takes us to himself. I hope what I read was erroneous. I hope it was not Augustine! who said that. But I know there have been preachers who have preached nonsense just as fallacious as that as far as the interpretation of Scripture is concerned, but who have nevertheless arrived at a presentation of truth, and God has often used it. Now I don't think He would use us if we did that with that sort of thing, but I do think we want to be strick and careful in learning to interpret the Scriptures, but I think we want to give our help and support to those who are presenting His great truth even when they are in misunderstanding of the meaning of Scripture on othr points.

I think this is very important, the attitude we should take. Try to learn the truth, God will use it through you. But the purpose of the truth is not just that you know the Lord, not just that you may have a better understanding. It is that you may grow in grace. It is that you may increase in the knowledge of the Lord and that you may be His instrument to bring others to know Jesus Christ.

So let us say this prayer for ourselves that Jesus said: Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. May He help us truly to understand His word and not misrepresent it. But may he help us to put primary the objective for which the word came, of bringing people to know God's great truths and may He lead us then in our relationship with others to avoid their errors, and when they oppose the central truths of God's Word, to oppose them and have no fellowship with the works of darkness. But when they through ignorance or misunderstanding make misapplications which nevertheless represent God's truth, to be tolerant and helpful to them rather than to be critical and make unnecessary division, in the body of Christ. Let us pray:

Father we thank you that your word is the truth, the only truth. All other ideas are relative and to some extent assumed for a time until we get more evidence for or against. What your Word clearly teaches we know we can stand upon. Help us to know the truth and to get out of verses like this one in Is. the truth that is there about Christ's healing work. Help us to put still greater stress on the truths of the atonement. Help us to be helpful rather than contradictory to those who sincerely mean to advance the work of Christ.