

5/22/73

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TASKS

TWO SADLY NEGLECTED ~~PASSAGES~~ OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are two sadly neglected tasks of the Christian Church both of which are interfered with by the human tendency to wish to establish complete systems.

It is human nature to desire to have something done in completeness. Yet in most things in life completeness is impossible. Man has a finite mind; he only has access to a comparatively small part of the universe. His capacity ~~and~~ for understanding and for learning is strictly limited, yet he dealy loves to take two points, draw a line through them and imagine that he can extend it on through infinity and draw ultimate conclusions from it.

All through history men have built up systems of understanding. In every case there have been some elements of truth in the system. Instead however of taking the elements of truth that were available, standing up on them, drawing from them those conclusions that they inevitably produce and taking == reserving judgment on those matters on which == to which ~~they~~ they gave no answer, men have tended to fill in the gaps with imagination or with ~~inferences~~ alleged inferences and thus to form a complete system. They insist that anything that does not fit into the system thus established must be erroneous. As a result much truth has been completely ignored because it did not fit into the system. Many vital matters have been overlooked that might otherwise have been obvious.

Two tasks of which we wish to speak have~~e~~ been greatly injured by this attempt of man to make complete and conclusive systems. They have also been injured by an inexcusable amount of neglect. The two tasks to which we refer are the task of apologetics and the task of systematic theology.

In Systematic Theology certain great truths about God, about Christ, about the nature of man, and about the world have been argued about in relation to the statements of the Bible, and a concensus has ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> reached. The Christian church owes a debt of to those who have worked out these great truths clearly taught in Scripture. Unfortunately most theologians have gone beyond those truths that have== are clearly set forth in Scripture, or clearly taught and understood by the interrelation of many important passages of Scripture, and drawn conclusions from individual verses taken out of context