1-26-79

page 8

wrote a letter we all approved of which was sent. R. B. Kuiper expressed in the letter that we believed that the Atonement is sufficent for everyone, efficient for the elect. And I don't see how any Christian can question that. If the Atonement is sufficient for everyone, certainly it's not efficient for everyone or there would be nobody lost! It's only efficient for those whom God has chosen, and we don't know whom he has chosen; he has told us to go out and preach the gospel and reach them. So I don't knowwhy that has to be a big subject of controversy and argument and discussion. And this letter completely satisfied the minister that R. D. Buiper wrote.

Kuiper was prof. of systematic theology his first year there. Then he left us three years, and then he came back and taught homiletics. There was a young fellow named Atkinson who was a very evangelistic fellow, very fine chap. He graduated from the seminary; had a church in N.Jersey, and was coming up and taking graduate work. We had a dinner once, and I sat next to him. He said, I've been taking Dr. Kuiper's course in doctrinal preaching and he said, My whole attitude is changing as a result. He said, I used to say 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved' but I can't say that anymore." I said, Why not? He said, Because they can't believe; there's no way they can believe unless the Lord regenerates them." I said, What should you do then? What's your purpose?" He sadd, The thing to do is to try to show them they are absolutely helpless; there is nothing they can do; they are absolutely lost, and get them in a position where the Lord can save them!" It seemed to me rather ridiculous, but it seemed to me to be tearing down his fervor and the way the Lord was using him. I was guite irritated with that attitude being inculcated there.