

form a theory as to what it means. Then you go ahead examining further to see whether your theory is substantiated as you go on or whether you have to revise it and form a new theory. You must remember that any theory that you form is a fallible, human theory and subject to revision. But the Scripture is infallible and is God's word. In so far as our theory conforms to the Scripture it is true and only thus far. There is very great dangers--this morning we were discussing in Old Testament History a little the matter of deceit and we could have gone much faster and much further if I had tried to give some general strong conclusions on the matter, but I thought it better to develop the general principle. The wrong method of approaching is to say, "Deceit is wrong." Therefore what is our problem. Is the Scripture true and say that deceit is wrong or does it ever support deceit. That is the wrong approach. The right approach is to say, "Whatever the Scripture says is right, is right; whatever the Scripture says is wrong, is wrong." Our human word deceit is a word which has taken over certain connotations and which has different meanings in the minds of the people who hold it. We want to try to find what the Scripture says is wrong and what the Scripture permits or what it says is right. Where is the dividing line? What word you call it is entirely a matter of accident. It doesn't matter what you call it. The thing to do is to get the right concept, the concept taught in the Scripture. To do that you have to take the Scripture as a whole. Scripture says, "Thou shalt not kill". In India we have Hindus sects that go with a broom sweeping the road. They have several servants in front of a brahman sweeping the road in front of him to get every little insect out of the way because he would commit a mortal sin if he stepped on one of ~~those~~ those insects and kill them. That is not the teaching of the Scripture. Of course, the word there--"kill"--doesn't mean kill, it means "murder". You have to gather what is involved. Even if it meant kill, the general thing, the general idea is presented but exactly what it means you examine the rest of the Scripture and see what it teaches. You find that capital punishment is ordered in Scripture and you find that the eating of meat is definitely provided for in Scripture and you