

R 8

us look at this passage and let us see just what is taught in it. What can we say is plus 10 and what can we say minus 10, and what can we say plus 5 or minus 5? The passage begins with verse 13 and ends with verse 18. Is Paul's purpose here the purpose of satisfying the curiosity of those who desire to know the exact details of the end of the age? Could you say, Miss Armes, about what his purpose is? The last verse says, "Comfort one another with these words." Well now, you comfort somebody a little boy when he stubs his toe and falls and cuts himself and you comfort him, and somebody has to go to the hospital for an operation and you comfort them. There are various situations in which you try to comfort people. It would seem quite evident from v. 18 that the purpose of this passage is not satisfaction of curiosity, though it may do that, but its purpose is comfort, but why? Who is to be comforted? Is there anything else in the passage to indicate it? Would you say here, Miss Armes? Would you have an idea? (Student) Yes. v. 13 gives us pretty definite proof. It seems to be a rather definite break between v. 12 and v. 13. It might be a better place to begin a chapter there than where the chapter is actually begun. I wouldn't on that, but certainly whether it is a better place than the later place, it certainly is an excellent place. He has been discussing various things before. Now he makes quite a complete change. It is hard to see much direct relationship between v. 13-18 and the verses before. It would seem that at the end of 12 he had turned his attention away from what he has been talking about and now he is going to talk about something else, and he says, "I don't want you to be ignorant. Well, he is going to satisfy curiosity then. He doesn't want us to be ignorant. Well, ignorance is not particularly harmful if it is ignorance of something that doesn't affect us a great deal. I don't even know the name of the ruler of Afghanistan at present and I confess my ignorance and there are circumstances under which it would be a very unfortunate ignorance, but under my present circumstances of life I don't think it is particularly serious. If I didn't know the name of the Governor of Delaware that might, of course, be more serious since I live