

arguments

~~arguments~~ could easily have been settled by one or two clear verses in the Scripture telling us exactly how the Lord wished us to do it. There have been great arguments about baptism among true Christians. Arguments which could easily have been settled with two or three definite sentences in the Bible -- the NT. We can be sure that God does not want His people to divide up into opposing groups over ~~x~~ details of ceremonies which He has not made so clear that all honest people have to agree on~~x~~ the interpretation of them. He certainly did not do so in the case of the OT. There we have the ceremonies described in tremendous detail, exactly how they are to be performed; exactly what is to be used; exactly what days particular things are to be done. All~~x~~ this ~~===~~ hundreds of ~~verses~~ verses of the OT are given over to precise detail on this. The~~==~~ In the N.T. there is nothing of the kind.

What is the solution to all this? Is Christmas a pagan festival that we should abandon? Is the OT God a god of wrath who is going to jump on us if we make the slightest error in the ceremonies He has prescribed to us? Is the important thing in the NT not at all what we do but what we do not do? Are we truly serving the Lord if we keep completely away from these prescribed things?

Some of the Quakers probably ~~f~~ and some of the early Salvation Army people seemed to have moved in these direction. Not having precise details about ceremonies in the NT, they did away with them altogether and do not observe either the Lord's Supper or Baptism. On the opposite there developed in the church in the middle ages a large number of observances. The church in the middle ages spoke of seven ~~sacraments~~ sacraments, and considered details of each of these seven as being very specifically prescribed~~x~~ in the Scripture.

I believe that the answer to all of these problems is ~~==~~ can be found in certain definite principles which are taught in the NT, and which are perhaps summarized as well as any where in Gal. 4:21 - 5:1. There Paul says. "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh' but ~~hex~~ of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one one from Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But