

punishment for their sins and through whom they would be saved. Yet the people came to worship this serpent of bronze and so Hezekiah tore it down and destroyed it. Even the best thing can become an idol. We must cast down every idol and== from its throne. But we do not need to destroy works of art unless they become idols. When any particular ceremony becomes an end in itself it is == the end is to point people to Christ, not to any particular details of ceremony.

The methods, however, in the OT in general are true and == but they were adapted to a particular situation. Now as we carry the gospel out through the world in different cultures, different situations, different backgrounds, the Lord wants us to find means of driving the truth home and getting the thoughts into people's hearts. We are called to liberty. We are not watching for every little detail of breaking of an ordinance. We are seeking to carry out the spirit of the ordinances in our lives ~~in~~ and in our actions. We recognize extenuating circumstances and situations that come all through life. We try to bring everything to the foot of the cross and solve it in the light of the teachings of the Bible. Surely if someone cuts down a tree and puts it up to worship it, it is wrong. If anyone today is doing what Jer. describes he is== putting up a tree so that he can worship it, ~~he~~ as Jer says, this is not living, it has no power, it cannot do good or do evil. I never heard of anybody worshipping a Christmas tree in my life. But we have the very == In the OT we have ceremonies. In the NT we have the Lord's Supper and we have Baptism. These things in themselves are nothing, but they are means used to fasten our attention upon what has already occurred. To remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives to purify us, to remind us of what Jesus did for us on the cross. To remind us of the fact that He is coming back and that even now He wishes us to live in newness of life. To remind us of our communion that we have with Him even as Jesus had with == at Emmaus with the disciples and they knew Him in the breaking of the bread.

OT ceremonies needed to be described in detail. NT ceremonies do not because we already know the reality. We need ceremonies to remind us of the realities and to witness of them to others. The OT very specifically laid down a system of particular days. The full significance of these was not understood. Therefore it was important that the precise details be preserved.