

4/17/73

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Divine Relations

they do not learn to have the personal intimate knowledge of Christ for which it is the purpose and objective of the map then it is all just a waste and accomplishes nothing. So at the beginning of the Christian life it is not what we know about Christ, it is not the doctrine that we know, it is not our correct understanding of the Trinity but it is our personal relation to Christ that matters. We must receive Christ.

Now it is a very common phrase to say that, Isn't it wonderful that so-and-so has accepted Christ. Personally I much prefer the Scriptural term, As many as received him to them gave He the authority to become sons of God. Accept conveys a little of the idea as if we thought it out and decided between alternatives and decided that this is the one we would take, and we are kind enough to accept Him! Now I'm sure that that is not what most people mean who use the phrase, but I think we avoid that altogether if we use the Scriptural phrase to "receive" Christ. Because when a person receives Christ he does indeed take a ~~voluntary~~ voluntary action. He does indeed make a definite step of the will. Yet how much of that comes from his own ~~volition~~ volition, or how much of it comes from circumstances entirely beyond his control. He is in no position to say. C.S. Lewis tells how, he said the time came when he after looking into this belief and that, and going into this belief and that, and studying this and that, he came to the conclusion that the only satisfactory answer to the problem of life was Christianity and he reached the point at the age of 31 as a professor in Oxford University, he reached the point of ~~receiving~~ receiving Christ as his saviour, but he said, I felt as if I was making a decision, but as I look back on it I see that God was closing in on me and God was bringing me to that point. We receive Christ as Saviour, but we must receive Him otherwise we are not Christians. We can know all the doctrine. We can sing all the hymns. We can spend ~~our~~ our time in good Christian company, we can live the most moral lives that a human being ^{capable} ~~is capable of~~ ^{this} of but we are not Christians unless we enter into the personal relationship with Christ to receive Him as Saviour. There are many verses which speak of us as being in Christ, if we belong to Him. A man is in Christ, and there are other verses which speak of Christ in you the hope of glory. Now are we in Christ, or is Christ in us? The relationship is a very close one and these are figures each of which gives a certain aspect of it. You take a horseshoe and you heat it in the fire until it is red hot; is the fire in the horseshoe.