

lating through the Roman empire, were spreading their ideas, were writing letters to one another, were writing treatises on different subjects, etc. Yet during the first few centuries there is practically nothing else preserved because God wants our faith to be based on the Scriptures, and not on the ideas of sinful men.

One thing I've always <sup>greatly treasured</sup> ~~regarded~~ about John Calvin, was that when J. Calvin found something clearly taught in Scripture he would stand on it. When he found a second matter clearly taught in Scripture he would stand on it. But he would insist that if you are to take thing clearly taught in Scripture and this clearly taught in Scripture and put them together and reach a conclusion, that conclusion must be marked as tentative unless you find it also clearly taught in Scripture. Human thinking is fallible, and many an institution, many a group of Christians talk about the Scriptures as the infallible and inerrant source of faith and life and then spend most of their time studying what fallible human beings have theorized as to what the Scripture means or what conclusions they would reach from it. Calvin insisted that whatever we stand upon must be something quite definitely taught in Scripture.

During the course of centuries, after a few centuries there began to be Christian writings preserved. These Christian writings preserved much that is excellent and helpful, and many mistakes can be found in any writings that are not inspired. It is interesting to look at the very earliest Christian writings that have been preserved and to see in them references to science or to history that are definitely false along with much that is definitely true, and to see the contrast between that and the Scripture which either avoids referring to a matter of science or history, or if it does it refers to it in such a way that its statements never contradict the facts of