

Read from Psalm 8.

The last time I spoke I mentioned I was going to speak on certain subjects on which there has been considerable difference of opinion, particularly very great differences of terminology. I said I would appreciate anybody who had any questions or any particular aspect they would like discussed, that I would appreciate it if they would give me word.

I was disappointed not to find any any notes in my box from that time, but one student spoke to me afterwards and asked me what was meant by "second causes"? I think that is a good question. It is very easy for us to assume everybody knows what we mean by second causes.

There was an important legal case in Great Britain some years ago. There was a large fair at which many people had stands. In one of them one person had some paper things that were not of any special value, which were offered for sale for a few pennies each. Someone thought he would play a trick on this person. He took a stick and lit one end of it and tossed it into the middle of the table. It caught fire from this paper stuff. The whole thing went up in flames. There was the loss of a few cents. It was not of much value. It was a prank someone had played.

But the person who owned the table felt great interest in these things. He'd spent a great deal of time making them. He was shocked at seeing this flame on this stick which might set his papers on fire, and he grabbed the end of the stick, tossed it without paying much attention to where it went. It landed on a table where there was material of considerable more value. That person seeing it land on his table and thinking of the injury the flame might do immediately tossed it over to another table. Thus it went to six or seven different ones and finally landed on a table not even in sight of the place where the original had been tossed-- a table which had extremely valuable material on it.

And the owner of that table had glanced the other way for a moment and did not see it land; it caught fire to all his valuable material which was immediately burned up! So he brought suit against the man at the next table who had thrown the fire onto his table. When he was sued he said, It's the one on the next table! who threw it on mine. So it went back until it reached the table on which there was material of hardly any value, a table which was not even in sight of this one.

When they said to this man, You have carelessly thrown a fire-brand and caused the burning up of this valuable material, he said, I certainly have never even seen that table. I certainly did not throw anything toward it. He said, I just threw it toward this near table here. I wanted to save my stuff. His stuff is worth double of what mine is. But even so it's worth practically nothing. I'll gladly pay for that! But to hold me responsible for that over there is utter nonsense! But the court said, the man who threw the stick in the first place was responsible for the results which occurred when it landed