

a ransom for many. As A.A.Hodge says, God calls upon us to go everywhere possible in order to present the message of salvation through Christ.

Even in the Canons of the Synod of Dort we read in Article 3, the death of the Son of God is the only and most perfect sacrifice for sin; it is of infinite worth and value; abundantly sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole world."God did not say go out into all the world and tell people that only certain ones are saved. That is not his commandment. God tells us to go to all people and tell them that if they will trust in the merits of Christ they can be saved. The Holy Spirit will lead those to believe whom God has chosen before the foundation of the world.

We are not to present these doctrines to the unsaved. They only confuse them; they cannot understand them. It is a job enough to learn to understand the matchless offer of salvation for the unsaved. After one is saved these doctrines are a tremendous comfort; they are an encouragement; a blessing, and they should be a blessing. They should not be a source of argument, a source of contention, a source of division.

Unfortunately human beings cannot be expected to be exactly inerrant in their understanding or interpretation. I don't think God wants one big church. There is too much danger in the sin that still in man. Too much danger from one big organization. But I don't think he wants us to be split up into 1000 groups over their differences on various points. I think he wants us to realize the unity of the body of Christ, and that our purpose here is to present the word of Christ, to show men how to be saved, and help others grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. even as they help us for this purpose.

I believe that these specific doctrines can be a comfort and encouragement for which we can praise the Lord and we can do our best to pass on this comfort to others who are saved, but not to use them as sources of contention and confusion.

Let us pray: Our Father we thank you for the wonderful teaching of your word. We cannot save ourselves. It is impossible. All we can do cannot possibly save us. Salvation is of God from beginning to end. We praise you that you have chosen to send Jesus Christ to give His life a ransom for many. We see a world of people who do not understand the truth, people who are going on in sin, people who need to know about Jesus. We believe there are a great many people who have believed and are on their way to heaven but who are confused and not growing in grace.

We pray you will help us fulfill your two major purposes for us: to win the lost to Christ, and to show the saved how to grow in grace, and that you will enable us each one to receive the encouragement and blessing that is ours in these ~~maxxdaysx~~ doctrines. But not to bring to anyone the confusion that can come from misunderstanding or misstatement about them.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.