

to select some marvelous verses. Jesus severely criticized the disciples because they had not studied into the teaching of the Old Testament sufficiently to gain from it those great facts of redemption which lie beneath its surface.

It is easy to see from the words of Christ that the attitude of the Christian toward the Old Testament should be exactly that of the scientist toward the facts of nature. The only difference lies in the place where we get the facts. The scientist gets the bulk of his facts through observation, although he must receive many of them by communication from other personalities. When he deals with material in parts of the world to which he does not have personal access he must get all the facts by ~~the~~ communication from others. The Christian, in dealing ^{with} ~~in~~ eternal things, must get most of his facts from the One who knows. In his handling of the facts, he must use exactly the same method as is used by the scientist. He must examine the facts carefully. He must arrange them logically. He must study and compare. He must form hypotheses from examination of the various data, and then he must check these hypotheses by the examination of further data. Thus he is able constantly to improve his understanding of the vital matters that are stressed in the Bible.

In order correctly to approach the Old Testament we must understand its nature. It is presented in human words and human words are weak instruments. It is the teaching of Christianity that the words in the Bible are kept free from error. This does not mean, however, that they are given powers which no human words can ever have.

It is vital that we realize that every word in human language represents an area, not a precise point. In every case the meaning of the word must be ascertained to quite an extent from the context. Some words have a wider area of meaning, ^{than others,} some ~~have a narrower area~~ ^{one} ~~of meaning.~~ ^{not} We must compare the various areas and decide how much is