

idea in such a dogmatic and positive form that a reader who was not an expert in this field would think it was one of the matters on which no expert could hold a different opinion. Thus the statements in the book were stressed in a way that was quite the reverse of the degree of certainty. While the book contained a great deal of valuable material it was practically valueless for anyone who was not already a master of the subject.

Among the many books that have been published on Daniel, I have rarely seen one that has gone to such an extreme, but there is often a tendency in that direction. The intent of the present volume is the exact opposite. It is not our purpose to urge a definite conclusion as to matters that are questionable, and it is certainly not our purpose to try to fit the statements of Daniel into any particular scheme of eschatology. It is our purpose to take the book as a vital divine record and see exactly what it says. We desire to stress those matters that are so clearly stated that they are unquestionable, and to state positively those matters on which the evidence should lead any intelligent person to hold a definite opinion. Wherever, in the light of intelligent examination of the facts, a valid argument can be made for each of two positions, it is our purpose to present both interpretations and leave it to the reader to decide between them. Where there is so little evidence that it is so slight that it is highly questionable whether a correct answer can be given at present it is our desire to state that fact, and sometimes to pass lightly over such matters since lengthy discussion of them might divert attention from our primary objective.

4. Failure to Follow Scriptural Emphasis

Another danger that we shall seek to avoid is that of neglecting the emphasis of Scripture. It is truly sad when churches or denominations divide over matters on which there may be legitimate differences of opinion. Sometimes such divisions have occurred because one group of Christian leaders has laid great stress on a certain interpretation