

Whole denominations have held great controversies involving tremendous emotions and separations over a period of years because of an insistence on putting all their emphasis on two or three verses of Scripture, verses which often the other denominations would interpret in a different way.

On many subjects if one takes two or three verses of the Bible alone it is easy to get an impression very different from what would be secured by taking two or three other verses of the Bible alone. Thus some have taken the statements about the temptations in the flesh as a reference to the vile body, or to the body of this death to mean that the body is evil and only the spirit is good and therefore whatever neglect or even destroys the body is desirable. It is easy to find verses in the Bible on which to found a strictly ascetic attitude, yet one finds other verses which tell us that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, that one has responsibility to care for the body. The Bible does not contradict itself. Portions of it taken by themselves simply give us a view of one portion of truth. They need to be checked and verified by being compared with other portions.

It is far easier simply to take a few verses of Scripture and construct a theory and then fit everything into this theory, but it is not the way to get truth. As a student in a theological seminary, it was my experience to hear great truth presented from the Bible, great Christian truth and excellent presentation of Scriptural evidence for these truths. However, it was shocking to hear the same professor when questioned about verses that seemed at first sight to contradict these truths, insist on explaining these verses in such a way that they either meant nothing at all, or meant exactly the opposite of what a superficial reading of them seemed to say. The result was that as far as most of the class was concerned these other verses might just as well not have been in the Bible at all. Actually God put the statements in the Bible for a purpose. They do not contradict matters that are otherwise clearly taught elsewhere in Scripture. They may however prevent us from extreme misinterpretations of these other matters. They may enable us to see aspects of truth that we would not see otherwise. They may add ^{detail} of significance to our interpreting of