

2-- First Things First

their Sunday School, from their minister, from the general culture in which they live rather than from the Bible. It has appaled me to notice how many of the matters that are constantly stressed by Christian leaders have never/so far as I know been carefully examined to determine whether they have a truly Biblical basis or not. All too often we simply assume things.

The Christian world needs many ~~things~~ men who will take the primary matters of Scriptural imperative and act deliberately and strongly upon them in order to make them effective. This is a greater need than any other.

Yet there is also a very great need for a few people to take secondary matters and examine the Scripture carefully and impartially and objectively, not seeking evidences to support a previously held view but endeavoring to discover exactly what the Scripture really teaches regarding them. There are many things that are simply taken for granted by most of the Christian community which rest purely upon our cultural or religious background, and not upon any careful examination of the Scripture. If the Lord tarry there is great need that these matters be carefully studied through the whole Scripture, not simply building a conclusion on two or three verses, Not simply building a conclusion on even on a careful study of the NT, but examining the whole Bible with these matters in mind to get all the evidence, pro and con, examine ~~it~~ it very carefully and see whether it is decisive or whether the matter is left somewhat open. Whether it is emphasized or whether it is a comparatively minor matter as far as Biblical emphasis is concerned. If the Lord tarry a few more centuries, it will then have been of tremendous importance whether ~~the~~ Christians have done this work.

As we ~~we~~ look back over the Christian centuries, we surely can see that the Christians would== Christian world would be in an entirely different position today if this task had truly been carried out.

Kauffmann in his Critique of the Philosophy of Religion and in his various criticisms makes a of Christianity takes great deal of attitudes of Christians. Such criticisms are greatly deserved. One reason for them of course is the sin which is universal in the human heart even among those who are justified. Another reason however, is the failure of those who