

it is common simply to ignore passages that seem to conflict with present attitudes. A true approach to Scripture that follows our Lord's own attitude toward the Old Testament would consider that everything in the Scripture is of importance to all God's people, though some parts are of greater relevance at particular times.

F. Remember that "all Scripture...is profitable for doctrine"

All the contents of the Bible were given by God for our learning and for our advance in understanding. Yet many treatments of systematic theology have few references to books that make up fully a third of the Old Testament. In every part of systematic theology every portion of the Scripture should be carefully and exegetically examined to see what light it may throw on the particular subject.

Some discussions of systematic theology treat any verse that seems at first sight to contradict some great Scriptural truth in such a way as to rob the particular verse of all meaning. A satisfactory treatment of any subject should consider every part of Scripture that deals with it. Great truths clearly taught in Scripture will not be contradicted by other passages, but passages that seem to do so should not be disregarded, as careful consideration of them may reveal aspects of truth that are otherwise neglected.

G. Approach views of all human beings as sources for questions, not answers

It should be kept in mind that every part of man's nature, including his mind and his understanding, has been affected by sin. Justification is instantaneous, but sanctification is a long process. Cleansing the mind from the effects of sin is never completed in this life; therefore every man's ideas are