

fallible. No matter how brilliant a man may be, he can make very serious mistakes, particularly where divine matters are concerned. When a confirmed alcoholic has been saved it sometimes takes a whole year before his mind is completely freed from the numbing effects of alcohol. The effects of sin are never fully eradicated in this life.

It is occasionally said that doctrines grow out of the consciousness of the church. Yet the church is made up of sinful human beings. The only dependable source for systematic theology is divine revelation, not human ideas. This view is as erroneous as the idea that divine truth can be infallibly promulgated by any particular leader who was not the writer of a part of God's inspired Word. The great essential truths of God's revelation are clearly taught in the Bible and were accepted by the first Christians. Any human writing may suggest interesting hypotheses or questions for investigation, but its conclusions should not be adopted unless clearly provable by careful exegesis of all parts of Scripture. If such proof is not found, judgment should be postponed and dogmatism avoided.