

What this principle practically implies is that understanding of the Bible beyond the truths necessary to salvation is a *process*. Just as there is a progress in revelation from the first book of the Bible to the last, so there is to be a progress in our understanding of revelation from the first moment of our new life in Christ to the completion of our present earthly existence. Such progress requires application and work and patience.

As stated, the principle suggests that perspicuity does not mean that all problems and difficulties in Scripture have simple solutions. Some godly men have spent a lifetime of study in the Scriptures, and still confess that they do not fully understand many portions. This can be frustrating to a young Christian, especially if he or she has been led to believe that all of Scripture is equally clear and plain. How can such frustration be relieved? By placing the stress upon how much the believer (with application and work) *can* understand, rather than upon how much he or she *cannot* understand.

A real-life incident in the experience of D. L. Moody may serve to illustrate and underscore this point. When Moody on one occasion was accosted by a woman who asked in a complaining tone, "Mr. Moody, what shall I do about the hard things I can't understand in the Bible?" he replied, "Madam, have you ever eaten chicken?" Somewhat nonplused by this seeming irrelevancy, she answered, "Yes, but I don't see ..." "What did you do with the bones?" interrupted Moody. "I put them on the side of my plate," she responded. "Then put the difficult verses there also," advised Moody, "for there's more than enough food to digest in the rest of what you can understand."

Here we have the doctrine of perspicuity. When we come to Christ for salvation, we have a sufficient understanding of the truths necessary for salvation. As we progress in the Christian life, we come to understand more and more of God's truth, especially as we study His Word, and seek yet more light from His Spirit. One day we shall understand all that glorified (yet finite) saints can understand of the truth of God. Then all things will be open and clear; and we shall fully know the truth. Until that time may God grant us a great love for His Word, as we seek to understand and obey it!