

This brings us to the very heart of the matter, which, I believe is: What does Christian Scholarship involve? In brief outline, I think that this subject includes certain definite aspects; among which are the following:

- (1) A firm grasp on some INITIAL CONVICTIONS.
- (2) A proper conception of WHAT CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP IS.
- (3) The utilization of certain SOUND PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION.
- (4) Some basic TOOLS for study.
- (5) Dependence upon the Holy Spirit for a SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING of God's Revelation.
- (6) Serious, hard, persistent THOUGHT.
- (7) A CONTINUING OPENNESS to further light from God's Word.

Let us take up these aspects in the order which we have suggested, with particular emphasis upon the first three.

#### I. A FIRM GRASP ON SOME INITIAL CONVICTIONS

These should include, I think, at least the following:

- (1) The existence of the God revealed in the Bible.
- (2) The absolute truth of the law of contradiction

This "law" states that "the same attribute cannot at the same time be affirmed and denied of the same subject." Perhaps it is more familiar in the assertion: "A statement cannot both be true and not true in the same sense at the same time."

- (3) The existence of the external world, as well as my own existence.
- (4) The rationality of the external world, as well as my own rationality.
- (5) The possibility of true knowledge; of God, of the external world, and of myself.
- (6) The Fall of the whole human race into sin, together with its effects, as genuine facts of history.