

d. Problems

One problem is the amount of truth given at different times and in various places. It is an unanswerable question as to why God should reveal himself more fully to one people than to another. Somehow the basis for this is in the character of God and the vastness of His will. I do not fathom it. God decrees and executes in wisdom and benevolence as well as justice and righteousness. The deeper revelation questions must, I think, be left in that perspective.

A problem often arises with regard to reception as to whether or not the recipient had full or partial knowledge of what was given. We may comment on this in open discussion but no written opinion is given.

e. Conclusion

The term "revelation" is broadly used to mean a great many things...from the defined sense of these notes, to a simple sense of learning something for the first time. The stress of the instructor would be to limit the term to the enactments of God and speak of our own works and learnings with less forceful terms. If God has revealed a thing to someone, it should be obvious that there is no alternate opinion, interpretation, etc., since God could hardly reveal two things that were contrary and still have revelation to be the subject of truth. The narrower use of the term is the healthiest and least likely to cause sectarianism.

5. Illumination

Just a fast note! This is a theological term of less significance than the previous ones mentioned but of greater temporal meaning. Illumination is conditioned on the receptivity of the party concerned. We define it as the process whereby God enables us to understand His word, apply it to our lives, and receive the guidance necessary to the decisions of life itself. Our greatest experiences and expressions are in the realm of illumination. It is fostered by or through the Word, prayer, life setting, experience, the guidance of others in the Lord, etc. But illumination has the tendency to be overshadowed by individual expression and, as mentioned, receptivity.

The wise Christian will use this term with respect also. Sometimes it is easy to confuse our own insights,