

the prophets and apostles been regarded and appreciated, no unscriptural theory would ever have been constructed to rest like an incubus on the minds of modern men. We do not need a theory to put ourselves right with our heavenly Father any more than we need one to put ourselves right with our fellow-men.

Getting right with God is a matter, not of theory, but of fact. It is something gained by effort and proved by experience. That is the way in which the New Testament writers present the doctrine. And, though their presentation may be called a view, it cannot fairly be called a theory, because it involves neither inference nor conjecture, but is verifiable by practice. In a true sense, therefore, one may say that all theories of atonement are inadequate to explain what it means.

Atonement is walking in light and working in love with our Maker; it is dealing with equity and dwelling in peace with mankind. So it is concerned with life, and is intended for life. As viewed by the apostles, it is a life—a divinely quickened life, or a life quickened into spiritual activity by the influence of the Holy Spirit on the human heart. Till that experience is gained, no theory, or combination of theories, will make clear what it is; and, with that experience, all thought of theorizing over the doctrine will cease.