

like the disciples upon the mountain, and looking up see no man and no thing save Jesus only. For parish purposes you may keep up your systematic theology; but you want more and more to live in the midst of the Gospel, and, standing by Him, let his light shine back on the Old Testament and forward on the New, not discriminating as between the inspiration of the Old and that of the New, but determining in what light and under what forms in the end you will see the truth. "I am the truth," he says; and I am inclined to believe and I hope that there will be a theology of the future which will be a system of which the beginning, the middle, and the end, will be the person of Christ.

Now, will your patience suffer two or three more thoughts? And the first is: Intellectual honesty is not inconsistent with intellectual humility. You probably have not time enough to know everything before you die; and, therefore, you must have help. You are not the only person who has ever done any thinking in the world. Men have thought before you were born. And you are not the only original investigator that has ever been on the planet. The difficulties that occur to you no doubt Augustine wrestled with; and he held his system in the face of them. I have no doubt they floored Calvin a good many times; though somehow or another, he squirmed out from under them and got on his feet again. They may come fresh to you, and may terrify in their operation on your mind; but they are not novel. They may be very old. Give due regard to the thinking of the early days and the labours of men that have gone before you. Do not dissent from the consensus of the great and the good unnecessarily. If you find yourself differing, question yourself, your thoroughness, the genuineness of your processes, and the principles upon which you have based your conclusion, before you question them. Still, on the other hand, remember you must be responsible before God for your convictions, and to repeat it in the form of a truism, your convictions must be your *convictions*. Therefore, in a word, you must be the arbiter to pronounce decision, and feel it to the very marrow of your bones, so that it enters into your life. Whatever help you get, then, must be help. You cannot be carried; you must be taught to walk. You cannot be partially held up while you walk; you must be shoved off on your own feet. You may look at the finger that points; but still you must turn your eye away from it, to see where you are going. And, for this reason, discriminate while you listen to men whose ability and position entitle them to speak with authority—that is, as far as authority enters aside from the word of God. And just at this point let me give you one counsel