

while to our natural misgiving that it must be difficult to understand the gospel because men have so differed about it, let us re-assure our confidence by the thought that it must be easy to understand it if its source is from God and if its design is to save men. What all men need to know will never be perplexed to those whose wisdom is sincerity. Understand your own wants, and you will understand the gospel that is to supply them. One hour of quiet thought, spent each day over a lesson which you have read from the Bible, will show you relations between the teachings of that book and your own heart and life, which you may be trusted to interpret for yourself. I do not forget the fact that many persons affirm that the Bible itself is the source of some of their deepest perplexities, as they seek to understand the gospel. But are they sure that it is the gospel which they are trying to understand, and that it is mainly for its religious and devotional lessons that they are studying the Bible? There are perplexities in every line of it for those who search it to discover them; and these perplexities are its defences against irreverence and curiosity, and the pride of wisdom. But the whole question, in its simplest form, is this: What does the gospel teach concerning the condition, the duty, and the destiny of man; of his need, and of the means, of salvation from sin and death? It is a question that has been asked by millions of human hearts, and answered to their satisfaction. So far as we are losers by the long space of time which removes us from the age in which the gospel offered a miraculous testimony and demonstration, we are compensated by the multiplied and rich evidences which men and women, in every scene and state of human life, have afforded to