

Inspired Commentary or a Borrowing of Words

When one inspired writer uses a passage from another, we must discern when he is merely borrowing the words to illustrate a different point, from when he is trying to give the actual meaning of the passage.

Galatians

[10] Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. [11] I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. (Galatians 4:10-11)

Galatians

“Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His only begotten Son into your hearts, and your voice crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 11LtMs, Ms 41a, 1896, par. 23

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Galatians

“Ye observe days and months and times and years.” [Galatians 4:6-10.] *The observance of holidays in this country is a great evil. We want not to give sanction to the days and many traditions that are brought in. We need not pay any heed to them.* 11LtMs, Ms 41a, 1896, par. 23

Miller's Rules of Interpretation

6. Every word should be permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text.

Ms 41a previously quoted does not follow this rule. But the chapter of Acts of the Apostles from which the following quotations come from, goes into depth on the context of Galatians.

Galatians

In the Galatian churches, open, unmasked error was supplanting the gospel message. Christ, the true foundation of the faith, was virtually renounced for the obsolete ceremonies of Judaism. The apostle saw that if the believers in Galatia were saved from the dangerous influences which threatened them, the most decisive measures must be taken, the sharpest warnings given. {AA 385.2}

Galatians

These false teachers were mingling Jewish traditions with the truths of the gospel. Ignoring the decision of the general council at Jerusalem, they urged upon the Gentile converts the observance of the ceremonial law. {AA 383.1}