

"Two and Two Make Four"

Ellet J. Waggoner*

If we would make progress in Bible study, we must believe as we go learning of the Lord experimentally. Suppose we come to such a text as this: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**" (Gal. 2:20); or a text like this: "God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**" (Col. 1:27). Suppose we do not believe these; so that we dare not say from the heart it is so to us. Shall we say, "Never mind, we will go on studying the other thing; we cannot quite take these texts now, but there are others which we can take." Let us see how this will work.

Two and two make four. Suppose I do not believe it; you cannot make me believe that it is so. Well, never mind; we will go on through the arithmetic. This is only a little thing, only one point; I do not see why you will not let me go on into multiplication, and fractions, and cube root. *What is the difference if I do not believe in it?* How much progress would I make, disbelieving this one thing?—Just none at all. The whole progress in mathematics depends on that one point.

Suppose it could be demonstrated that two and two do not make four.—It would overturn all mathematical calculations. If I do not believe that two and two make four it is just the same to me as though it were not so. I cannot believe anything that is based upon that. *My disbelief of the fact does not affect its truth*, so far as I am concerned two and two would not make four. *My study of mathematics would be a confused jargon.*

Suppose I am willing to go so far as to say that two and two make five; but I cannot get down to four. Now we will go on with our study of mathematics on that basis. Can we not ignore that little point, and still get good out of the mathematical study? Would not the discipline of the mind in the study be just as great if we went at it on the basis of two and two making five? *The mind that got its discipline from the study of mathematics on that basis would be all wrong. It would be worse than no mind at all. Whoever put confidence in it, would be deceived and deluded.*

So it is with these or any other texts in reading the Bible into practical experience. There is no place for argument about it. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20); "God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**" (Col. 1:27). It is a simple lesson. **By believing it we**

know it is so, and this we must know in order to go on in the knowledge of the Lord, and of His word.

The Sign of the Times 21, 19 (May 16, 1895), p. 2 (290).

*The additional verse of Colossians 1:27 was included in the first and last paragraph by
D. Peters