

The Power of Understanding
Not Illusion but Truth is Divinity

E. C. Davis

February 22, 1922

Lancaster, PA

"Be still and Know that I am God"
"Thy God Reigneth."

Leonardo da Vinci 1452-1519.
Conviction of the possibility of mechanical
flight.

December 8, 1903: Professor Langley's unsuccessful
effort. Broken-hearted.

December 18, 1903: Wright Bros, Dayton Ohio.
Successful flight, 852 feet.

400 years. Chemistry. Physics. Metallurgy/aluminum.
Gasoline engine. Electricity. Box kite. Birds.
Etc.

Accomplished not by conventionalist, classicist, nor by
enthusiast, romanticist. But by men of insight,
and grip upon reality, who knew their world, and
worked hard to understand its nature.

We are engaged in a line of human development that has
not yet been achieved. It is the essence that
freedom and fellowship are principles to be
trusted in the field of religion.

Plumb line: Special creation or evolution.

In 1860 at a meeting of the British Association Bishop
Wilberforce assailed Huxley as champion of
Darwinian views, in this fashion, "Facing Huxley
with a smiling insolence, he begged to know
whether it was through his grandfather or his

grandmother that he claimed his descent from the monkey. Huxley turned to his neighbor and said, 'The lord has delivered him into my hands.' Then he stood before us and spoke these tremendous words. 'He was not ashamed to have a monkey for an ancestor, but he would be ashamed to be connected with a man who used great gifts to obscure the truth.'"

That controversy which raged 60 years ago among the scholars, is just now developing into a great popular battle.

Two great dangers.

Being too conventional. Playing fast and loose with words and institutions. Lack of courage. Becoming enthusiasts.

Too ardent in emphasis on some particular aspect or phase of life, some particular doctrine or custom. Thus creating an illusion.

The power of understanding, vision of reality.

Insight in contemporary life.

Be still and know that I am God.

We begin with the observation of fact. We interpret facts.

God is in reality in the common place.