

Inerrancy Message at Newark, Delaware Reformed Presbyterian Church

February 27, 1980

It is always a pleasure to be with any of my former students and to see the fine work that they are doing, and I praise the Lord for the way He has been using Mr. and Mrs. Aufforth and Mr. and Mrs. Fretz here in the church.

The subject I have been asked to discuss of inerrancy is one which would not have been apt to have been discussed 20 years ago. I looked into the indexes of a number of theological books and in not one of them did I find the word inerrancy in the index at all. I looked at the discussion of inspiration and revelation in a number of theological books and even in the discussion the word inerrancy did not occur. Why then do we talk so much about inerrancy now? since the word was not hardly used until within the last very few years.

In explaining that I would call your attention to an analogy, a very close analogy as a matter of fact. You will find that several hundred years ago, or a little more, there were many books written in order to demonstrate and discuss the divinity of Christ. That was the a standard term in Christian churches 100 years ago i.e. the divinity of Christ. I doubt if anybody here has heard anyone talk about the divinity of Christ. The reason is because the devil in this last century has been very adept in using a method to destroy the Christian church.

The devil attacked the church on the outside through the ages. He attacked it with persecution, with all sorts of attempts to destroy the church. We find persecution in our own day. In China thousands of Christians were killed. Many Christian ministers were tortured; many were put into prison. I read recently of one who came out of prison after 25 years much of it (the time) he was shut off from all other people. It said this man has begun preaching and he has large groups coming to hear him, and people say, Arn't you afraid? He replies, Well, they know where they can get me any time they want to take me back to the prison. The people are just hungry for the gospel. With persecution they have tried to destroy it. In Russia they have tried entirely to root out the Christian church. The story of the heroism of the Christians in Russia is one of the great stories of church history. The way that the Christian faith has been kept alive amid a terrible persecution as the world has ever seen in that country today.

But the devil has found these direct attacks have not been able to wipe out the Christian church, and he has -- is trying what is perhaps a more effective method, ---the method of infiltration. So about a century ago there began to be those in the Christian church who said, Oh yes, I believe in the divinity of Christ. Of course I do. Christ is divine just as you and I are divine. There's a spark of divinity in all of us! Maybe there was a little more in Christ than in us! Of course I believe in the divinity of Christ. In those days people who really believed in Christ began to not use the word divinity any more, and they substituted another word that had hardly been used before, at least