

So Jesus Christ was here for a few years on earth, and He lived a perfect life here, and set a perfect example and then he made a perfect sacrifice sufficient to atone for the sins of all who would put their trust in Him. He was only here those few years, and He left a word to tell us what we need to know.

He said, O fools and slow of heart to believe what the Scriptures have spoken. The whole OT is God's Word. It's true. I sometimes pass a church where there is a sign: No creed but the NT. That is not a Christian statement. Our creed is not the NT. Our creed is the entire Bible. Jesus explicitly put His seal of approval on the whole OT, that it is inerrant, that it can never fail. That it is absolutely true. He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to lead His disciples into all truth. He gave the promise that there would be a NT, and we have the NT which we can trust just as much as the OT. We accept this as the inerrant word because we believe in Jesus Christ. as our Lord and king.

It is not the place to begin in talking to the unbeliever to try to prove to him the Bible is true. If you know of a few particular cases that have been greatly questioned, and you have the evidence to show that the questions are wrong there, Scripture is true--well, a few cases like that may help to make people ready to listen. But the approach to the unbeliever is his sin, his need of a Saviour, and the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ. It is not necessary to believe in inerrancy to be saved.

But inerrancy is important for progress in the Christian life. Because the Bible is the food upon which we grow. The Bible is the guide for our feet, our lives. So it is very important for our Christian progress to know that we can trust this Word. Then inerrancy is important, I don't say it's absolutely essential for the Christian life, but I do say that it is essential for the continuance of Christian institutions that those who lead them, that those ~~ix~~ who teach in them are men who solidly believe in inerrancy. That this is God's Word and this is true.

Just a word about two other words we use a great deal. The word revelation and the word inspiration. Dr. Boice very clearly explained last week how communication is natural to human beings. A person is naturally ~~maxim~~ desirous to communicate, and if God is a person we would expect Him to communicate. But what we communicate is ideas. We use words to communicate, but we communicate ideas. So revelation is ideas, and part of the Bible is direct revelation that God gave while other parts of it are what men saw and what men observed. Parts of it God revealed to them; parts of it they wrote down what they had seen and experienced or even heard.

But inspiration has to do not with ideas but with words. Inspiration in the theological sense means the preservation of the words from error. It means God's guidance of those who wrote.