

## A Few Thoughts about Hermeneutics

We in the ICBI are committed to belief in inerrancy. We accept the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ that the Bible is altogether true and free from error.

"Inerrancy" seems to be a negative term. It merely says that nothing that is stated in the Bible is false. This might easily be said about a blank sheet of paper, but when one says it about a collection of 66 books, such as are contained in the Bible, it is not merely a negative statement. Its implications are very positive.

Surely "inerrancy" implies that the Bible is sufficient for the purpose for which it was given. While the actions of prophets at various times and those of Christ during His sojourn on earth had many purposes I believe that God gave us the Bible for only one purpose: to give information about Himself and about His desires for our lives.

One of the great slogans of the Reformation was Sola scriptura, the Bible alone. During the Middle Ages Bible studies had become incrustated with a mass of human thought and human speculation. The Reformers found that in going directly to the Bible they could receive the message that God had put there for them. Today we are in a similar situation. Some scholars are saying that it is necessary to study many human sciences and human theories in order to be able to interpret the Bible. I believe that the Bible is sufficient to fulfill the purpose for which it was given. It is God's message to His people, and everything that is necessary for correct ~~interpretation~~ understanding of this message is contained within its pages.

The Bible contains information about many subjects not involved in its primary purpose. It touches upon many areas of physical or social science.