

Copy May, 1961

Yesterday we spoke of Inspiration, and noticed that we do not believe God dictated the Bible but that it is just as true as it would be if he's dictated every word. It's a strange thing nowadays that so many speak sneeringly of this idea of verbal inspiration, belief that God dictated the Bible, as if that were a terrible thing! Actually every businessman dictates to a secretary. There would be nothing wrong with God dictating the Bible if He chose to do it. The only reason we don't believe it is because we don't believe He chose to dictate the whole Bible. We do believe however, he chose to dictate parts of it. For instance the 10 Commandments. God spoke all these words. Then we have the 10 Commandments which God spoke. Certain parts of the Bible are undoubtedly dictated by the Lord. Other parts He may have caused the writer to see a vision which the writer describes in his own words, the vision he saw. But God by inspiration kept those words he used from error.

Someone asked me after the meeting yesterday, Do you hold --- I take it you hold the "dog-unleashed- theory" of inspiration. I never heard that term before. I emphatically reject the term. I think it gives an utterly false idea. ((I think it is "dog-on-leash-theory)). You might say in a way my hand is on a leash. I reach my hand out here and do something. I don't have to think how am I going to move that hand, how do this? It does it sort of automatically. I say touch that and it just touches it. It is a whole complicated process here that nobody understands. I have a thought in my head and my fingers do something. There is a great deal complicated in it. Some parts they have worked out, but some parts they don't understand at all. We don't understand many of the simplest things in the Universe. How then shall we understand the complexities of God's dealings.

It's like the Person of Christ. Jesus is fully God, Second Person of the Trinity. He's not half man and half God. He is entirely God and He is entirely man. He is just as human as we are yet without sin. And He is God the divine Lord of Creation. When he was a little babe in the manger crying for his milk, he was at the same controlling the stars and the planets in the heavens. How can this be? We don't understand it. Yet if we're Christians we believe it. Same is true of Bible. The men who wrote the Bible were individuals. There is individuality in the way they wrote, the way they thought. We see the personality of the different ones. The effect of their experiences. But God prepared those experiences for them. He selected men who would take advantage of these experiences He desired them to have. The Bible is a human book and it is a divine book. It has human personality also, and it is just as true as if God dictated it. I indignantly reject the term of ~~dog-on-a~~ dog-on-a leash because the men certainly were not dogs, and God's control of them was 1000 times more effective than any control I could ever exercise over any dog, with a leash. I know there are some trained dogs, they don't need a leash perhaps. But the figure of the leash is not at all in my opinion a satisfactory figure of what we believe.

Yesterday and the day before we looked at various illustrations