

in this way, but I feel it is very dangerous. Those of us particularly who are to lead God's people, we must get the principles. We must find these important principles the Lord is teaching us. Now of course that may seem to some one to be contradicting the principle of verbal inspiration. But that is because they don't understand what verbal inspiration is. Verbal inspiration according to some people's idea is that these words are sort of magical words, and you can select three words out of the Bible and take them by themselves and any idea you get from these three words, that is God's teaching for you. It is <sup>true</sup> ~~true~~ there are times when God stoops to our weakness and enables us simply by taking words out of context to get the truth that He wants us to have.

But we ought to be careful that they state the doctrine correctly and correctly apply - - - - - not specifically what God wants us to get out of the passage at all.

By verbal inspiration we don't mean these words are magical words so that three words taken by themselves have packed into them a great amount of truth. We mean by verbal inspiration that the words of the Scripture are = exactly present the ideas that God wants presented, and that these words carefully studied will not give you ideas that God does not want you to have. We don't mean that superficially they might give you such ideas. Verbal inspiration is . . . . not a negative matter. We say that we look at a word, an illustration that occurs to me is the men on the road to Emmaus . . . Now the Apostle could have said there were two men walking to Emmaus, but he didn't, he said there were two disciples. And since he said there were two disciples we don't know whether there were two men or whether there was a man and a woman. We just don't know. If he had used the word "men" we might think the word was used of human beings and then one of them might be a woman, but there would be a possibility of misunderstanding. The Lord caused the write to avoid using an over specific word in many cases where he used a more general word. Verbal inspiration thus is in quite this extent thus a negative. It is words free from error, and therefore the teaching we get there is that it is not the words that are vitally important, it is the ideas what we gather from these words,

*What does not an abundant use of the word "men" imply? It implies more accuracy, more purpose, more intention.*