

000311 Meaning and Importance of Biblical Inerrancy
Summer Institute, June 6, 1979

My subject this morning is the Meaning and Importance of Biblical Inerrancy. But if you back a few years you will hardly find it discussed at all. I looked in quite a number of books of theology (looked in the Index) for the word "inerrancy". In most of them up until the last 10 years I did not find this word "inerrancy" in the Index at all.

In comparatively few of them was the word even used in the discussion of inspiration in the book. More recently the word is used more. I thought it was interesting for a moment to note why this change has come about.

It might be paralleled with another change that has occurred. If you look among good Christian books written a century ago, you will find a number with the title The Divinity of Christ. Evidences for the Divinity of Christ, or some such title. You will not find any book written in the last 50 yrs. I believe that has in its title the words The Divinity of Christ.

The reason is that people used to simply say Christianity is wrong; it is not true; Jesus is not God; the Bible is not dependable. Christians would stand up against that sort of attack. But in recent centuries there has come a very different sort of attack; an attack which can be said in a way to be an attack from within rather than from without.

A century ago there began to be men in the Christian church who said, Oh I believe in the divinity of Christ, certainly Christ was divine! You and I have some of the divine in us! He had a little more than we do. We are all divine and Christ is more divine! Of course that's not what Christians ever meant by divinity. So we gave up the word, and quit using it, and instead we began using a word that was hardly ever used in connection with Christ, up to about a century ago--the word "deity."

Deity was a term used for God. You'd say, that nation believed in many deities, but to use it as an abstract meaning God, and meaning what divinity meant before began about a century ago when the word divinity was stolen from us. And we began to ~~talk about the deity of Christ. Nobody could say that we are deities; a deity is a God. And we believe in the deity of Christ.~~

There have been many discussions in this century about the deity of Christ, because we either have to say we believe it or we don't. Now that's a fairly simple development regarding that word.

Regarding the word inspiration, it has been a bit more complicated. It is perhaps a rather unfortunate word, the word inspiration because I draw inspiration when I draw a breath into myself. I draw a breath into my lungs, that's an inspiration. ***** When I stand on a high mountain and look over the beautiful scenery, I say that I am inspired. Christians have always meant when they said when they said the Bible was inspired they have meant something entirely different. They have meant that God