

That the ideas he wanted expressed should be clearly expressed in their language showing their personality, stressing their viewpoint yet selecting from it that which would present the ideas which he wished presented. So inspiration has to do with words, and revelation has to do with ideas.

Inerrancy does not mean you can select a couple of words out of this and and whatever they say will be by itself true. Because any group of words has to be interpreted in relation to other words. But inerrancy means that if you study the book to see what it definitely and clearly teaches, you will find that the ideas that are taught there are definitely true.

You will sometimes hear people say there are conflicts in the Bible. Well there are contradictions in anything anybody ever wrote. But in the Bible there are many verbal contradictions. Thus Rom. 13:9 quotes the OT, "Thou shalt not covet", but I Cor. 12:31 says "covet the best gifts." That is a verbal contradiction. Of course it is perfectly clear to us what it means. "Thou shalt not covet" means desire that which does not belong to you and which you have no right to. "So covet earnestly the best gifts" means desire that which is best and which God is making available to all who come unto Him in faith.

Gal. 6:2 says "bear one another's burdens", but Gal. 6:5 says "Every man shall bear his own burdens." A verbal contradiction. But we have no difficulty in fitting them together, and seeing that each of us should do his best to bear his own burden, but should also help others as much as he can.

Heb. 3:11 says, I swore in my wrath they shall not enter into my rest, "but Mat. 5:34 says, I say unto you Swear not at all." Again a verbal contradiction.

Luke 13:34 says, Strive to enter into the strait gate." 2 Tim. 2:24 says, The servant of the Lord must not strive." We will find verbal contradictions in the Bible, of course. But we will not find any contradiction of ideas when we examine passages together and try to get the idea that is presented there.

It is very important that we do not have a misunderstanding of what we mean by inerrancy. It does not mean that we can take one verse by itself. Now one verse may summarize God's truth. One verse may summarize the sense of a passage, but we should not take words out of context except as we understand very definitely that they are good summary verses. Inerrancy does not mean that we can draw all truth from the Scripture. Everything that we can get from the Scripture is true, but there is much in it that we cannot get from it.

There used to be good discussions and may still be for all I know about people who say the Bible is mathematically incorrect. Because it tells us that Solomon in the temple built a brazen sea which it says was 10 cubits from rim to rim, and was 30 cubits around. They say, Anybody in modern times knows