

Now there's another area in which this enters which is closely related to the way I began, which I think is vital. That is our attitude toward differences in the Scripture. The difference between fold and flock is an important one. The -- Another one I might mention is where Jesus said, to the rich young ruler, "Why callest thou me good? There is oudeis good except God." Oudeis just means nobody. But you might translate it "no man." That would be quite a normal translation. All the early translations of the Bible including the KJV in all its early printings said "there is no man good except God" and that implies that Jesus, who is a man, is not God! Because there is a man who is good -- the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Greek does not say "man", it says "no one."

"No man" is not a bad translation. We often say "no man" when we mean "no one", but in this case it becomes a very bad translation. One of our great primary essentials is the inerrancy of the word. What difference does some of these little things make? What difference does some matters of science make? As I heard a man say, What matters is not the age of the rocks, but the Rock of Ages! That's true. Our salvation does not rest upon the age of the earth; it rests upon Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages. That is vital. But if the Bible is not dependable where it speaks of scientific things, how are we going to distinguish between where it speaks of scientific things and where it speaks of spiritual things?

So I consider it a matter of absolute primary importance that we believe in inerrancy of the Word of God. But I think it is also extremely primary important that when we say inerrancy we do not mean the inerrancy of any one version, of any one translation, of any one representation of it. It is the inerrancy of the ideas which God has caused to be taught in His Word. It means that if you study this Word carefully and find what is clearly taught there, you will not find any error. It does not mean that every single word in any copy is absolutely correct.

Because after all words have various possibilities of meaning. I noticed several of them in the use of the word "strain" a few minutes ago. When you stop to think of it, I'm constantly being amazed at the variety of meanings that our English words have. I think English is in some ways the worst language in the world for that reason. There are more ways you can be confused with it than any other language I've ever studied, because one word has so many many different meanings.

So we need to compare Scripture with Scripture. We need to get into the original. We need to study to see what is meant there and it is because I believe of the ease with which words taken alone out of context can mislead us that God has intentionally caused that little errors like gnashing on and straining at have been permitted to come into copies of places. There is a small group of people who are making a lot of noise lately in talking about the KJV as if it were inspired. I saw something printed which said, What is the Word of God? It's not some originals that are lost! I want the Word of God that I can hold in my hand!" Well, you can't hold the Word of God in your hand. The Word of God is a hammer to break the rock! You can't break rocks with this Bible! The Word of God is a fire that destroys that which is evil. It is the idea that