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Inerrancy Update Summer Institute, Summer 1983

I was asked to speak on the subject of Inerrancy Conference Update. For an update one should assume that everyone knows the background is for the update. I would imagine there are a good many who don't know much about the origin of the Inerrancy Council or its purpose. So I will speak a little about its beginning and more about its details, its later development.

I'd like to begin with some vv. of Scripture which I think are some of the most important in the Bible as far as the question of inerrancy is concerned. That is in Lk. 24:25-26. There we read about Jesus meeting the disciples on the road to Emmaus. As he walked along with them, they did not recognize Him. He was simply somebody they happened to meet along the way. They refer to the recent events in Jerusalem and he says, What events. They went on to tell how they hoped Jesus would be the actual one promised to be Messiah, but now he's been taken by wicked hands and killed. All their hopes seemed to come to an end.

We read in the Gospels that on two or three occasions Jesus had explained to the disciples that He must be killed and rise again from the dead, but they had not understood. If you or I were in His position, and they knowing that this had happened were all upset and discouraged when you had predicted it on several occasions, What would you have said? Would you say, Why didn't you pay attention when He talked with you? Don't you remember this is what He said that this is what would happen? We find that what He said in vv.25,26(NIV), "How foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Should not the Christ have suffered these things and then entered into Glory. And beginning with Moses and all the prophets He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself."

These people had heard him explain it, but he didn't criticize them for not remembering that. He criticized them that they should have gone to the Bible, studied it and found what was there, even tho it did not lie on the surface. It took careful examination of exactly what was said there to find the important truths that the Messiah must suffer, die and be raised from the dead, and he called it=them fools and slow of heart for not having done it.

What do you think is His attitude toward his people today when most of us take simply what human beings have said and thought, what human beings have taken from other people who say they got it from the Scripture instead of going to the Bible and studying it for ourselves? Not reading into it our previous ideas but drawing out from it what Has put there for us. To me this is one of the greatest vv. in Scripture on its inerrancy, on its absolute dependability, on the fact that we need to interpret it carefully. We need to be careful not to read our ideas into it but to find what is there. But that it is all important, tremendously important if we are truly to be His followers.