

They came together in Chicago. There they had a meeting planned in which they had some very fine speakers at several meetings. The one I remember particularly was Dr. Criswell's of Dallas. He gave one of the most inspiring messages I have ever heard in my life. Very very vital presentation. But these messages were not the purpose of the meeting. These inspiring messages. The purpose was to prepare a statement.

First they divided the Council and the Advisory Council up just by random into groups. To get together and gave them some == gave them a suggested statement on some aspect of the question of inerrancy. They were to discuss this and discuss the wording of the statement and see how they thought it could be improved, or changed. So they had groups who had different parts of the suggested statement to discuss this way. Then they met together and reported from the groups. They had other meetings discussing different aspects and again they broke up into groups.

Then they had the final meeting for discussion at which the groups came together. The question was, Can we make a statement that shows the world why == what we believe by inerrancy and what we don't believe by it? Because many people have a false idea. Many think when we speak of the Bible we believe God dictated it. Many will ridicule that--God dictated the Bible! I always get a little irritated when people take that attitude toward it, because I dictate to a secretary very often, and if God chose to dictate the Bible there is no reason why we should scoff at the idea. But the evidence is strong that that is not what God did. He did not dictate the exact words. He used human beings whom He selected with a certain background, whom he trained so as to have certain definite experiences, to whom he gave certain particular experiences and observations, to whom He did reveal certain specific messages and He did dictate the 10 commandments.

We're told he spoke these words from heaven. There were certain things He did dictate but as a whole He used human beings with their particular experiences, observations, their particular vocabularies, but he so led them that they would write what He intended should be a part of His Word and should be free from error. And should give the truth He wants His people to have through all the ages.

Many people don't have an understanding that God dictated. Of course that's a false idea, not because there's anything wrong in His dictating, but because an examination of the Scripture shows various styles, of different human beings. God used these human beings and through their various peculiarities He gave us that which presents His truth. That's only one of various misunderstandings of the matter of inerrancy which was discussed in trying to present a statement.

I remember when the group met and had their last discussion. They asked the different committees to report on the changes they thought should be made. A representative of one of the groups got up and said, We are having great disagreement about wording this and that.