

original than to make a good Greek translation of it.

Anyone with any experience in translation work knows how impossible it is to present the full and exact meaning of a statement of one language in another. Words differ in meaning; tenses and verb-forms and syntactical constructions vary widely. While it is fairly easy to give an approximation of the main ideas in a translation, one invariably fails to represent all the inferences and exact possibilities of the original, while many inferences and possibilities of interpretation which were not in the original are inevitably contained in the translation.

The New Testament writers were not attempting to reproduce the verbally inspired Old Testament, which was already available to their readers, but rather to call attention to its passages and to point out lessons learned from it. Consequently, they would often give a general summary of a passage, or they might summarize the part of a verse which was not particularly important for the matter which they were discussing, and then quote very exactly from those portions which contained the idea they had in mind. Even though the current

Greek translations were not particularly good, they were widely known, and it was natural to quote the common translation if it brought out the idea to which the writer wished to refer, provided, of course, that this idea was contained in the original Hebrew. If the idea relevant to the discussion of the New Testament writer was not clearly enough brought out in the current translation, he would naturally give his own translation from the Hebrew. The quotation is not then a presentation of the verbally inspired original, since it itself is a translation. However, being part of the verbally inspired New Testament, it is kept free from error of fact, of doctrine, or of judgment.

This gives an idea of some of the problems involved in the correct understanding of the inspiration of the Scriptures. There are difficulties in it as in the full understanding of all involved subjects. The difficulties are gradually dissipated as we study further and more carefully.

One fact stands out: God has given us a sure revelation. As a result of inspiration the entire Bible becomes a revelation to us from Him.



### *A French Officer Speaks*

"Those who bow before the feet of Christ, believe me, are the only really happy people on earth. They know nothing of the anguish of passing time, the anguish of loneliness and the terror of coming extinction. I would give my life to possess that radiant illusion of theirs, even at the risk of becoming as infatuated as the poor lunatics in asylums who fancy themselves among the rich and powerful of earth."

—From a letter of Pierre Loti, French naval officer and literary genius. *Blackwood's Magazine*, March, 1924.