

Many other passages could also be cited. Anyone who looks at the evidence fairly must admit that the Bible itself claims to be "verbally pure or correct at every point." Dr. McCarter sweeps all this evidence aside with a wave of the hand and an unsupported statement that is directly contrary to the frequently repeated statements of the Bible.

If God has spoken to man, man has no right to discard any part of what God has said. If the Word of God is true, it is true in every regard. There was never a writer who was clearer on this point than John Calvin. It is amazing to see how Dr. McCarter tries, on page 41, to twist Calvin around.

Page 41 is a most illuminating instance of how a man can so twist facts around as to give an impression that is the exact opposite of what the facts actually are. Beginning at line 8 of this page, McCarter writes as follows, "Let us take Calvin as an example. In his commentary on II Timothy 3:16 he says that the Bible has come from the hand of God, and 'has nothing belonging to man mixed with it.' It would be difficult to find a stronger statement of the Bible's 'inerrancy.'"

Thus Dr. McCarter admits that Calvin taught Biblical inerrancy, and even quotes one of the many statements that could be selected as proof of this assertion. There should be no question that Calvin believed that the Bible is God's word and free from error. Calvin held that the Bible judges us, and not we the Bible. Calvin always maintained that anything that is clearly taught in the Bible should be accepted by all Christians.

Calvin knew, of course, that we do not have the original manuscripts of the Bible. The books have been copied and recopied. They are far better preserved than any other ancient texts; yet in the course of copying occasional mistakes have crept in. None of these copying errors affects any vital doctrine. Some of them are very obvious mistakes. Calvin was thoroughly familiar with this fact. Personally, I believe that God intentionally allowed these minor copying errors to creep in as a warning to us against building too much upon one verse taken by itself. God wants us to compare scripture with scripture.

After clearly showing that Calvin believed that the Bible, as originally written, comes from the hand of God and "has nothing belonging to man mixed with it." Dr. McCarter tries to prove that Calvin actually believed the very opposite, by citing a quotation from Calvin's Commentary on Matt. 27:9. Right after quoting from Calvin a clear statement of his belief in Biblical inerrancy - a statement that could easily be paralleled by many other statements from Calvin, McCarter seeks to disprove it all by a very shaky inference from another passage. This is hardly an honest way to deal with any author. Let us see just how shaky the inference is.