

done, I wrote thanking him and asking for more information about himself -- what his present activities are.... I was disappointed to get no answer to this letter for I would have been interested to learn more about him.

It grieved me to see that Pickering devotes a great part of his book to discussing the theory of Westcott and Hort. This is like whipping a dead horse! I do not know of anyone living today who follows the theory of Westcott and Hort, though I remember how strongly it was supported by Dr Machen, that great defender of the faith.

God has caused the Bible to be so well preserved that every idea that can be legitimately drawn from its contents is absolutely true and without error. He has so preserved the New Testament that if we make a consensus of the readings of any considerable group of Greek manuscripts, it clearly presents all the basic Christian doctrines without including anything that is erroneous. There is nothing anywhere else comparable to the wonder of this fact. The variations that God permitted to arise show that He does not want us to waste our time arguing about minutiae, for no two manuscripts are exactly the same. Paul sometimes refers to Jesus, sometimes to Christ Jesus, sometimes to Christ, and sometimes to Jesus Christ. It does not make the slightest difference whether in a particular passage he uses the full phrase or only the divinely given name Jesus. In either case the truth is exactly the same.

It is obvious to anyone who studies Hebrew and Greek that God has not preserved His Word without allowing small verbal differences between manuscripts to creep in, though He has kept everything vital entirely free from error. Thus in I Samuel 13:1 the Massoretic text says "Saul was one year old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel two years." Of course this makes no sense, so the King James Version changed it to "Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel." In about a dozen other cases where a king's reign is introduced, exactly the same Hebrew phrases are used, and the translation I have given above is the correct one for these words. The reason for the confusion is obvious. At an early time one end of two lines of a manuscript was torn off, so his age and the number of tens in the length of his reign disappeared. Although that result made no sense, later scribes copied exactly what they found, and this has continued to