

LETTER 24
1976

**A BRIEF WORD ON
BIBLICAL INERRANCY**

I quite agree with you that Harold Lindsell's book, *The Battle for the Bible* raises many questions which it does not always resolve. It is also sad that its positive presentation of evidence concerning the problem of inerrancy is not nearly as strong as it might be. Some of his statements gave facts, as he saw them, about events that had puzzled me in the past, and I am naturally curious as to the relative degree of accuracy. My own experience, while rather extensive, has not to any great extent been concerned with the particular individuals and organizations that he discussed.

I was glad to read that you received so much value from your training at Fuller two decades ago, and that it is your impression that the institution stood solidly for the inerrancy of the Bible at that time. I wish that it held a similar position today, but things I have heard from various sources, along with the statements in Lindsell's book, lead me seriously to doubt it.

During my life I have seen many Christian organizations move far away from the position of their founders. Such institutions often continue to attract students from strongly evangelical backgrounds because of their previous reputation, and then lead these students into denial of the central doctrines of God's Word. While I hope that Fuller will not fall into this category I would be much interested in any evidence that might give an indication of the direction in which it is apt to move....

A few decades ago the great point of discussion was the virgin birth of Christ. It was then said that a person might give lip service to other great doctrines, but if he denied the virgin birth this gave a clear indication as to the direction in which he was moving. I wonder whether inerrancy is in the same category.