

It would be easy to show that the attitude which the Christian church has taken historically toward the Bible, that it has considered it as the ultimate authority on all matters with which it deals. Jesus Christ in His discussions ~~with the~~ appealed to the Scripture as the final authority on any matter ~~under consideration~~ with which it dealt. This is the attitude which the Church has taken. It is only recently that there have been many within the bounds of the professing church who have claimed to be Christians but have been ready to discard large sections of the Scripture or even in the section they accepted to ^{only} select/such sentences as fit with their judgment. The attitude of the church has always been, the Bible is God's word. What it says is true. If we find something clearly taught in it, that we must accept if we are Christians.

It would be easy to give quotations from Christian leaders through the ages to show that this is the attitude the Christian ^c Church has always taken toward the Bible. However that is not the attitude of the present book (we may give a few references in the appendix [?] for which would be of value ~~to~~ those desiring to look further into this phase of the question). Our purpose in this book is not to prove that the Christian ^c Church has held the inspiration. Our purpose in this book is not ~~to~~ even to prove that ^{verbal} inspiration is a true doctrine, or one which ought to be accepted. It is rather to see what Christians have meant by the term [?] verbal inspiration and to show that it is not an obscure obscurantous idea or a superstition but that it is a clear and intelligible viewpoint. One which an intelligent person can examine and understand and can take a definite position of either accepting or rejecting.

(In an appendix we may indicate the grounds on which we accept inspiration or we may make that the chapter in the book.)

It is important that we bring out this fact that when we say that the Bible is inspired we cannot simply mean the Christian church has never meant simply that it was written by men of great capability or special insight or of men who have done much thinking about the problems with which they dealt. Christians have always taken an entirely different attitude toward the Bible in this. When they say it is inspired they mean ~~that~~ that it is God breathed. They mean that God has in some way overseen the giving to us of the Bible with the result that it ~~becomes~~ is indeed a message to us from Himself.

In order to clearly understand what we mean by saying that the Bible is verbally