

# 3 Pinnock's article

I cannot <sup>think</sup> believe that <sup>my</sup> a real Christian believes that the entire edifice of belief should be hung on a single detail of Scripture. I don't think that Schaeffer, Montgomery and others have been claiming that to give up one tiny fine point in the Bible will open a flood gate of Bible-denying theories. I think what they are doing is pointing out that people give up one and then another and then another and the next thing you know they have given up the whole Scripture. The question of authority is very vital and if the authority is in the Bible, not in us, then the authority is in the whole Bible and the Bible itself decides what is important; we do not. What the Bible clearly teaches us is true is true regardless of what we think about it.

A little further on he says that E. F. Harrison cites the opinion of Francis Patton that "inerrancy is an inference which godly minds have drawn from inspiration. Harrison was convinced that the doctrinal verses on the subject do not require us to hold it. [ See C. Henry, Revelation and the Bible, p. 238 and 250.)" It is a little hard for me to believe that either Harrison or Patton really advanced such an idea. We must look into it. If they did I think they surely were mistaken.

In the next column Pinnock speaks of "the breadth of opinion regarding 'inerrancy' as well as the strength of conviction on biblical 'infallibility'". As a "legitimate concern" Pinnock says "it is prudent to be careful lest under the guise of a minute and unimportant detail some matter of scriptural teaching be denied which God meant us to believe. Kuitert, for example, dispenses with the historicity of Adam, Jonah, the acts of Elisha, etc., and Jewett dismisses some of Paul's assertions on the subject of women in the church as a hangover of his rabbinic perspective. Thus the question arises, precisely what qualifies something to deserve ~~inclusion~~ inclusion in this quantity of 'minor' details? Granted, it is an apologetic concern, but it is one with some serious theological consequences if it gets out of hand." The answer that Pinnock goes on to give