

It is possible to derive great value from certain points of the superstructure, while being ignorant of the foundation, but true Christian theology requires, if it is to be developed to any extent, that the foundation be recognized and given its full value.

c. As to Inspiration, the Result rather than the Meaning is Vital.

Orthodox Christian Theology has always held that the Bible is the one infallible source of knowledge in spiritual things. It has always held that this book is inerrant and absolutely dependable. There have been differences of opinion as to how it comes to be free from error and to be an absolutely dependable foundation.

It is very common for those who attack the idea of verbal inspiration to speak slightly of the idea of dictation, as if such an idea were repugnant and impossible and as if such an idea were what is meant by verbal inspiration. This shows a complete misunderstanding of what verbal inspiration really is. The term verbal inspiration does not refer to how the book came into existence but to what the situation is in the book, as it existed in the original manuscripts. It has been the belief of historic orthodox Christian theology that God caused that a book would be brought into existence which would express His mind so perfectly that every detail of it could be depended upon. This is what is meant by verbal inspiration. It is not some sort of vague ideas that are inspired, it is that these precise words have been kept free from error. It is very important that we do not misunderstand this. ~~It is very important~~ It does not mean that these words are magical words so that every one can be squeezed to such an extent as to get all sorts of absolute knowledge out of them. The words are to be taken as they stand for what they teach and it is to be recognized that they are incomplete as all finite things are incomplete. Thus if a statement is made that ~~a person~~ someone saw a person, it does not state whether it is an angel or a human being. If it states that he saw a human being, it does not state whether it is a man or a woman. If it says that he saw a ~~male~~ male being it does not state whether it is a boy or a man. If it says that he saw a boy it does not state whether he was in his teens or earlier. If