

desires him to know. Under these circumstances it is important that he has reason to believe that he can put complete confidence in the book that God has given him. It is very vital that he have a clear understanding of the teaching of verbal or plenary inspiration of the Bible. Not that it is an end in itself, but that it is the foundation from which he will gain the understanding that it vital to every phase of his life and activity. Therefore for the one who has become a Christian an understanding ~~for~~ of the reason for belief in the attitude of orthodox theology as to the complete inspiration of the word of God is a matter of extreme importance.

It should be stressed however that verbal inspiration is not the proper point of argument with a non-Christian. The man--orthodox theology holds that the man who does not know he needs Christ as Saviour, needs to see himself as lost. He needs to become aware of God's existence and of God's claims upon his life. He needs to see that there is no hope for him except through the salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ. He needs to accept Jesus Christ and be born again into the kingdom of God. These are the points of urgency as far as he is concerned. It is not, it is wrong to spend a lot of time trying to convince unbelievers that the Bible is free from error. All that is necessary, as far as they are concerned, is to recognize that it is a book of general reliability, presenting the story of the greatest man who ever lived. They need to go to the book and read it from this viewpoint and see themselves as sinners and Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Saviour.

It is a mistake to think that people can be won to Christ through convincing them that the Bible is free from error. It is of course useful to remove some of the obstacles in their way from false claims that the Bible contains errors. It is helpful to show them points at which the Bible has been falsely attacked, and to show how new evidence that has come to light fits with the Bible rather than with the false attacks. This sort of sample evidence as to the dependability of the Bible, is a useful approach to the unbeliever. But the attempt to prove the doctrine of verbal inspiration is something that is