

THE REAL ISSUE BEFORE THE CHURCH

1. Our Lord did indeed say that the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church, but he did not deny that they would try to avail.

2. What makes the present situation so difficult and fraught with such dire consequences for the well-being of the church? I SUGGEST:

1. It cannot be the guide book and map.

2. The guide book has remained the same..

3. Its message has remained the same and is clear for those who will read and understand.

4. THE FACT IS:

1. The signposts of the guidebook and map (the Bible) have been TAMPED WITH, so that they intentionally lead one astray. (Proverbs 22:28)

2. If the church today takes the wrong turning to find herself in the land of despair and doubt, she has not hearkened to the Guidebook, but has allowed herself to be deceived by signposts with which her enemy has tampered.

5. THE CLAIM OF THE CHURCH'S ENEMIES:

1. That the Bible is not infallible.

2. If the Bible is not infallible, then we can be sure of nothing.

1. The fortunes of Christianity stand or fall with an infallible Bible.

3. What is the particular choice of route which faces the Church at the present time? It is we assert:

1. The path as set down and clearly marked by the supernatural inspired word of God, Or,

2. The paths of the uninspired man-made religion.

3. So now the question is:

1. Shall the church follow man with his guide posts that lead away from God, OR,

2. Shall the church follow God's Bible his inspired guidance to man? (1 Kings 18:21)

THE REAL ISSUE BEFORE THE CHURCH STATED

1. The real issue is that modern man is no longer ready to listen to the voice of the one living and eternal God.

2. He prefers rather the changing sands of human opinion for the foundation of his religious life.

IN THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD:

The Reformation gave to the world an open Bible which led to the Restoration of God's Word with the plea of WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS WE SPEAK; Where the Bible is silent we are silent.

5. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BIBLE:

1. For many centuries when questions arose concerning the Scriptures, the Bible was allowed to defend itself but:
 1. Now we think that we can abandon this attitude.
 2. We seem set to learn our doctrine in some other way more favorable than the Bible to our conclusions:
2. Some sources to which men often turn:
 1. A generation which has as its background:
 1. The rationalism of the eighteenth century;
 2. The evolutionism and "higher" criticism of the nineteenth century;
 3. The "neo-orthodoxy" and dialectical theology of the early part of the 20th century:
 1. May be expected to set itself up as a better judge of the Bible than the Bible itself.
 3. The Bible no longer permitted to answer such questions as:
 1. Who is Jesus Christ?
 2. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 3. Is Jesus Christ the only Savior and Redeemer?
 4. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

NOTE: For the answer to these and other Bible questions the Church in other days turned to the Bible for the answers.

5. In other days, and in some instances even in this day, the church has exercised great toil to present to the world a message from the Bible.
 6. Now, it would seem, all this is to be reversed.
 1. When many are asked about the teaching of the particular church to which they belong they immediately turn to a CREED:
 1. A creed written by men in an attempt to formulate what they believed the Bible taught.
6. I CLOSE WITH THIS PLEA:
1. Let us return to listen to the answer as given by the Bible to all questions and ~~among~~ including the question, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?