

was founded independently of it.

The Apostles took no pains to have their writings kept together, nor did they hold any councils to make a certain history. They did not come together to draw any summary of the Christian faith. Several works of the Apostles were omitted from the New Testament, how was that? Who established the canon which was now received by Christians throughout the world? Who pronounced such works to be inspired, and such not to be inspired? The Council of Carthage decided it, and the pontiffs of the Church confirmed the Council. Deny the authority of that Church, and what the authority for the New Testament? If that Church has erred it may have made a mistake with regard to those writings. The authenticity of those books is a historical fact—the inspiration of the books is a supernatural fact, and no one could establish that fact by the books themselves.

The Church of God stood face to face with those ruthless invaders of the Roman empire, she converted them, simply by preaching and teaching. They could not read, the bibles were too few to be distributed among them. The Church is the living voice of God, the bible the written word of God. One could not contradict the other.

But there is no greater error than to suppose that the new doctrines of the Reformation were spread by the reading of the bible. The doctrines of the Reformation had been received before Luther's bible appeared, and how were these doctrines spread? By preaching the doctrines of the Reformation spread in England, in Wales, in Scotland, in Sweden, in Norway, in Iceland and Prussia long before the Protestant translations of the bible were received. Very few of the people in some places knew how to read, so that they could not have perused the Bible in any form. But what was the logical inference of this denying the authority of the Church? In many of the German Universities numbers of the most distinguished professors doubted the inspiration of the bible, and considered the Old Testament a myth. Rationalism, not Christianity, supplied the place of dogmas in Germany. In England the authority of the Church was called into question: and even at this day, in the University of Oxford, infidelity is making vast progress in that hitherto boasted Church and land.

Yes, the real enemy of the bible is Protestantism, which by submitting its pages to the feeble light of private judgment