

be that no one can *disprove* the doctrine, as not one of the original documents is in existence, if we insist that since "to err is human" these writers being human must have made mistakes.

We are told that said writers were different from all other men in that they were supernaturally endowed beyond their fellows to teach all the world absolute truth, free from any admixture of error. If we ask for proof of all this astonishing teaching, we are told that some of the writers themselves hinted that they were so endowed.

But may not such hints have been added by a later copyist? Oh, no, that cannot be, for that would destroy our doctrine. Interpolations occur only where they favor the orthodox view, and, besides, the early Fathers said the Apostles were inspired to teach absolute truth, and early councils decided by show of hands (after stormy debate), that it was so.

But were these early Fathers and councils inspired to settle such a weighty question for the rest of the world? Of course not. Then the whole question is still open, and every man has a perfect right to investigate the matter for himself.

The plain truth is, this whole ponderous theory of the Apostles being inspired to teach the world absolute truth requires for its support this much at least to make it of any practical advantage. First, the inspiration of the twelve. Second, the inspiration of some outside the twelve—as Paul and Luke. Third, the inspiration of the Fathers and first councils, to enable them to decide which Apostles were inspired, and that inspiration ceased with Paul and Luke. (Query—How could inspiration cease with Paul and Luke if the Fathers were inspired?) Fourth, the inspiration of copyists. Fifth, the inspiration of translators to enable them to detect interpolations, if any, in the old manuscripts, or to decide whether the copyists were inspired. Sixth, the inspiration of all

men to enable them to get at the true spiritual meaning of the Scriptures, even provided they came directly from the mind of God.

Had not Christian editors better go back to the theory of the inspiration of the vowel points in the Hebrew text, lest this new-fangled notion of additions, subtractions and interpolations by copyists be found a sword that cuts both ways, and just as well one way as the other?

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THE TRUTH.

"The truth shall make you free."

JESUS Christ said "I am the way, the truth and the life." He lived the truth, and there is a sense in which it may be said by each of us, as God's children, we are the truth. We can live the way the truth and the life that Jesus did, if we will.

Jesus fully demonstrated the life of truth: "The Son of God has come and given us an understanding, and we are in him that is true, even in his son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." "And when he, the *Spirit of truth*, is come, he will guide you into all truth." Will we receive him as such? not the spirit of error, but the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of God, that we may know the things that are freely given to us of God.

And truly he has given us everything richly to enjoy. The Spirit alone can reveal the living truth of God to us. In no other way can we know it. How did the apostles know the truth? *They received the Holy Spirit.* They did not understand the teaching of Christ till after Pentecost. And Jesus knew this, for he said: It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come, but if I depart I will send him unto you. And when he is come he will abide with you forever, and he will convince the world.

It is the blessed Holy Spirit that first convinces us that we are wrong, and when