

"I beg leave to propose a short, clear and strong argument to prove the Divine Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

"1. The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

"2. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord,' when it was their own invention.

"3. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell to all eternity.

"4. Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by Divine Inspiration."

No one can feel more strongly than I do the benefit, I might even say the necessity, of young men and women mastering the Bible for their Sunday school and other work as Teachers, and for their own edification, "and that our educated young people should be as proficient in religious as secular knowledge"; but where I differ *toto coelo* from you is in the conclusion that the course of study which you describe as "not an ordinary devotional and ethical study of the Bible," but one conducted in "a candid search for truth" with "exact scientific methods," will give the results which you appear to desire. I also differ entirely from you, and believe a very large body of our laymen will concur in the conclusion that the "non-devotional" "candid search for truth" and "exact scientific methods" employed in the course of studies, to which I am objecting, instead of having "done an immense service to the cause of Biblical interpretation," has shaken the faith of many in this Book, has caused others to discredit the whole