$\sqrt{28}$ Understanding the Bible

authenticity?" Pinnock quotes Lindsell, who says that no one who rejects biblical inerrancy has any right to claim the "evangelical badge," and Pinnock states that he regards this view as unjust and extreme, and urges charity toward those who hesitate over inerrancy because of honest questioning.

To be quite fair, we must point out that Pinnock, while holding to a very qualified inerrancy, sees that there are "flaws and potential dangers implicit in any case for biblical errancy." He asks, "What is there to prevent these evangelicals (who hold to biblical errancy) from handling the Bible like liberals do?" As examples of evangelicals who have handled the Bible using liberal methodology, he mentions Dewey Beegle, in his book *Scripture, Tradition, and Infallibility*, and Paul K. Jewett, in his book *Man as Male and Female*.

Clark Pinnock believes that the answer to the issue of errancy versus inerrancy is the moving of the Spirit of God in mighty power through the church, bringing reformation and revival. Instead of "our strenuous, rationalistic efforts to make the case for the Bible air-tight," and our "obsession with the inerrancy of biblical details," we will have "an overwhelming sense of the power and authority of God speaking through the Word by the Spirit."

Now although this kind of rhetoric is powerful, and seems to sweep away all the troublesome problems (as fresh sea-breezes sweep away sultry air and troublesome mosquitoes and gnats), yet upon analysis this "solution" turns out to be even more troublesome that the problems. The seabreezes develop into a gale, and the gale turns into a hurricane!

It is not a problem of either/or: *either* the Bible is inerrant, *or* the Spirit moves through the church in mighty power. Rather it is one of both/and: God has *both* given us a true revelation of Himself, causing this revelation to be truly recorded in Scripture so that Scripture is God's Word of truth, *and* God's Spirit wields this true sword of the Word and powerfully applies its truth to the minds, hearts and wills of the lost and of His people, transforming and reviving them and reforming the church in accordance with His perfect will!

Pinnock's view on inerrancy is frankly disturbing, as are the views of Jack B. Rogers, Donald K. McKim, and David A. Hubbard, all of whom are

28