

opponents of biblical inerrancy. One of the reasons these views are disturbing is that the matter of inerrancy is vitally related to the question of the authority of Scripture. Gleason L. Archer, in his article in *The Foundation of Biblical Authority*, speaks of this issue under the heading "Inerrancy Essential for Biblical Authority." Archer writes:

We are faced with a basic choice in the matter of biblical authority. Either we receive the Scripture as completely reliable and trustworthy in every matter it records, affirms, or teaches, or else it comes to us as a collection of religious writings containing both truth and error.

If it does contain mistakes in the original manuscripts, then it ceases to be unconditionally authoritative. It must be validated and endorsed by our own human judgment before we can accept it as true. It is not sufficient to establish that a matter has been affirmed or taught in Scripture; it may nevertheless be mistaken and at variance with the truth. So human judges must pass on each item of teaching or information contained in the Bible and determine whether it is actually to be received as true. Such judgment presupposes a superior wisdom and spiritual insight competent to correct the errors of the Bible, and if those who would thus judge the veracity of the Bible lack the necessary ingredient of personal inerrancy in judgment, they may come to a false and mistaken judgment -- endorsing as true what is actually false, or else condemning as erroneous what is actually correct in Scripture. Thus the objective authority of the Bible is replaced by a subjective intuition or judicial faculty on the part of each believer, and it becomes a matter of mere personal preference how much of Scripture teaching he or she may adopt as binding.

In contrast to the view of the bible as capable of error in matters of science, history or doctrine, ... we find that the attitude of Christ and the apostolic authors of the New Testament was one of unqualified acceptance ....

... Despite all the imperfections of the human writers of