

says that this Word went with the autographs; God's Word was lost -- as if God's intent to preserve His inspired Word for His Church in all ages was thus easily frustrated! The inspired Word of God, according to *The Outlook*, no longer exists. History has devoured it!. Obviously, on this view, the world has been without any inspired Word from the Lord ever since the first copies were made, and originals lost ....

But what good, then, for *The Outlook* to assure us that "we" (whoever that is) are now sure of the accuracy of "98 percent" of our copies? What good would it do if "we" were certain of 100 percent accuracy -- so long as the "God-breathed" Word upon which Preaching depends was lost in the first copy? 'We" might say that the Bible on our pulpits is as pure a copy as Ivory soap -- it remains, on *The Outlook's* grounds, still the uninspired, fallible, errant word of copyists and translators. No basis, Brethren, for: "Thus saith the Lord!"

Of course, it should be pointed out in the interests of objectivity that, in the midst of all the dust thrown into the air at Palmer and Lindsell's expense, De Koster never attempts an alternative explanation for his position that the Bible on the table and on the pulpit of his church "*is*, here and now, the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God." Instead he retreats into mysticism. He speaks of "God's mysterious ability to use a fallible, frail, erring human ministry to proclaim His infallible Word!" and then goes on to say:

No one, at least in the Reformed tradition, claims inerrancy, or infallibility, or inspiration for the pulpit ministry. Yet, genuine Preaching is possible, and can mark off the true Church, *only* because the Word of God is, in fact, here and now, conveyed to the faithful by the lips of sinful man! You know this well, Brethren. Many of you depend upon this inexplicable mystery every Lord's Day to dare to say: "Thus saith the Lord!"... No, this cannot be explained. Only believed -- or disbelieved. How can God convey His inspired Word across time and space by way of fallible human beings? This is, for us, an inexplicable mystery. But we are naive enough