Pillars of the Truth

Article #8

*Modernism*

H. Leo Boles

###### “Modernism”

###### ---Inspiration---

H. Leo Boles, Deceased

Be it remembered that "modernism" is another name for infidelity. There are different shades of modernism. Since modernism means an attitude toward divine truth, there are different attitudes sustained toward inspiration. One's attitude determines one's belief. People are losing faith in the inspiration of the Bible. They think that they have found some errors and contradictions in the Bible; hence, they do not believe that the Bible is an inspired book. We are to examine some of the attitudes toward inspiration today.

**MODERN BELIEFS**

Many do not hesitate to challenge the authority of the Bible. They do not believe it to be the infallible word of God. They deny that the writers of the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit; they deny the providence of God in preserving for us a correct record of God's revelation to man. Much of the teaching of the Bible condemns the present divided state of religious affairs. Leaders read the Bible and see the condemnation, but give no heed to it. They do not believe the Bible to be God's word to them. In their claim for their own theories in religion they set aside the Bible. They must give some reason for it, and the best that they can give is that it is not inspired. This is the infidel's attitude. The disbeliever does not regard the Bible as being the truth of God.

Others claim that the Bible is "inspired"; however, they give their interpretations of "inspiration." They affirm that our poets were inspired; that Milton, Shakespeare, and other great writers were inspired. They mean by this that they had an urge or an "inspiration," and, hence, from the depth of their souls they gave utterance to the thoughts of their hearts. This to them is inspiration. They say that the secret of the power of the writers was the invincible conviction in their own souls and in the souls of their hearers that the message which they delivered came directly from God. They felt themselves to be appointed of God or called of God to speak for him, and this deep feeling on their part is inspiration. They deny that the Holy Spirit had anything to do with their convictions. From the modernist's point of view the Bible is wholly a human production.

One proof that is submitted against the inspiration of the Bible is the fact that the writers retain their peculiar characteristics and traits. The individual characteristics of the writers leave their impress on their writings. For instance, they tell us that Paul had certain peculiarities characteristic to himself; that he was educated, and there is seen in his writings the marks of a well-trained and educated man. They claim that Mark was not an educated man, and that his writings are more childlike and simple just such writings as one would expect from an unlearned man. So with the other writers of the Bible. It is true that the writings of the different men bear the marks of individual peculiarities; but do these prove that the Holy Spirit did not guide them? Could not the Holy Spirit use and express these peculiarities? Would one deny the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in using a human agency and rob that agency of its peculiarities? Could not the Holy Spirit use Paul and his style of writing and express the truth of God? And then could the Holy Spirit not use Mark and his characteristics in writing? Such an argument robs the Holy Spirit of power and freedom. It limits the operation of the Holy Spirit to man's conception. Since the Holy Spirit used human agencies in writing the Bible, why could he not use also the human characteristics?

**THE TRUTH**

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit guided the writer along in setting forth the progress of divine revelation from Adam to Moses; the same Holy Spirit guided the prophets in writing the books of prophecy as we have them from Moses to Malachi. The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the gospel in giving just such facts and teachings concerning the Christ as God wanted man to know; the same Holy Spirit guided Luke in giving such history of the cases of conversion and the church as God wanted man to know; the same Spirit guided the writers of the Epistles in giving all needed instruction to Christians and churches. Such a conception of inspiration lifts the Bible from a mere human production to the high pinnacle of the word of God. Such a conception of inspiration invests in the Bible the authority of God. It honors the Bible as being a revelation of the way, will, and wisdom of God. The true conception of inspiration recognizes the human element and also the divine element.

"Revelation" means "unveiling." A divine revelation means God's unveiling truth about himself; hence, it is the word of God expressed in human language. Man could not understand this revelation if it were expressed in the dialect of angels. God reveals to man; the Holy Spirit guided in making a record of this revelation. God revealed his will to man, not just for that individual, neither that generation; his revelation was made for future generations; hence, the record of it must be for future generations. The record was made for man, through man, and to man; hence, we have the Bible. Its facts, truths, and principles emphasize the divine guidance in giving it to man. To deny the inspiration of the Bible is to deny the Bible. It lays claim to inspiration; hence, it may be believed and trusted as the word of God. Let us believe the Bible and honor it as our guide from earth to glory.