

copies. The original bore the protective care of the Spirit of God and the copies are certainly well preserved but the original was the work maintained in the level of inspiration.

c. Qualifications

Our definition and general understanding necessitate certain qualifications to avoid our going to unreasoned extremes. The following are to the point:

--The giving of the Scripture involved a long historical process. Over many years and by many different persons the total program of truth was communicated. Inspiration was not limited to one age or to one enactment. It was a "work" continued by the Holy Spirit in historical perspective. The historic witness to the adequacy of the Word of God is the single authority of God behind the whole. The Word was not written and eventually editorialized in one massive "inspiredness" setting, the supervision of the Holy Spirit was realized in all ages and the Word was progressively authoritative and inspired.

--The application of inspiration to the original mss is not intended as a "cop-out" in the face of textual problems. It is simply an honest evaluation and admission that our study can only go to a certain level. The possibility of error in copies and in the loss of some textual enactment in the process of transmission cannot be overlooked. Yet the student will note that the giver was God and the copiers were men. We can easily see where the margin of error is greatest.

--Inspiration reinforces both the historical veracity of the message and the purpose for which the sacred Word is given. It is not a magical toy nor a yoke to prohibit study and scholarly pursuits. It is a reality that makes the results of the study more meaningful and certain.

--Those interested in further ramblings on this line will be interested in the tape lectures of Prof. Dunzweiler entitled INSPIRATION AND INSPIREDNESS and available in the library and the bookstore.

d. Problems

(1) Transmission

We believe that the transmission of the biblical texts was, in itself, little short of amazing.