

by Bill Crews

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every generation to the point that some believers become disturbed. They hear it said that many “religious leaders” are aware of these “contradictions,” but are silent on them because they do not want the masses who believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures to find out about them.

Their Solution: Another Compromise

Not wanting to seem foolish and ignorant, determined to hold on to the Bible even if only by “blind faith,” some believers come up with another grand compromise. They decide that the Bible is inspired in thought or substance, but not in expression or wording. One editor of a religious journal (Buff Scott, Jr.) commends and quotes the essay of another (Leroy Garrett) and calls it “a splendid essay” and “one of the best I have ever read from anyone’s pen.” Both claimed to believe in the inspiration of the Bible while concluding that the Bible contains a lot of “conflicting testimony” and has “not been untouched by man’s fallibility.” The only examples of Garrett’s that are given – the inscription written by Pilate for the cross to which Jesus was nailed, the time at which the women came to the tomb of Jesus, and whether or not the women told anybody anything after leaving the empty tomb – have been answered time and again and are not contradictions. All of the accounts can be put together and harmonized. Unbelievers must laugh when believers compromise their faith. Paul not only taught that every Scripture is inspired of God (“*breathed of God*,” 2 Timothy 3:16); he also wrote: “*But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words*” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13, thus claiming verbal inspiration for what he wrote). Garrett believed that “all scripture is inspired of God,” but denied that “all scripture is revealed by God.” That’s a distinction with a difference that existed only in his imagination. It is a sad compromise for a believer.

