American Decency Association PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

April 2015 Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

The Vox Dei

by: R.C. Sproul Jr.



about the West's shift modernism to remember that the two family a fundamental common provide evidence conviction: the Bible is the hand, whatever the family happy and peaceful family. they diverge as to their strongholds. reasons why. Modernism tells us the Bible is not The true because science is true, and the Bible is not crafty, slick. By flying science. Postmodernism the false flag of truce, tells us that the Bible is offering a gentlemen's not true because there is agreement that we can

no truth, because nothing all agree that none of us is true.

Because of the similarities,

it is all too easy to confuse two perspectives. Because of the differences, it is vitally important not to do so. A modernist assault on the authority and trustworthiness of the Bible is radically different There's something odd from a postmodern assault. The former is a direct attack, a blitzkrieg to the postmodernism. On the one very heart of our defenses. hand, we would be wise God says He made man out of the dust of the ground; are kin to each other. We the modernist tells us this can debate over whether is false-man evolved they are father and son, from lower life forms. older brother and younger, When dealing with the but no one can deny the modernist, we can expose resemblance. his false assumptions, Both worldviews share challenge his affirmations, truthfulness not true. On the other God's Word. We can marshal archeological relationship, this is not a studies, march through propositions, all while While both systems affirm raining cannon fire on that the Bible is not true, the foundations of his

> postmodernist, however, is far more subtle,

is right and none of us wrong, he requires that we lower our banner of truth. He turns straightforward affirmations and truth claims into weaselly, slippery internal matters of the heart. He judges a given statement not on the basis of its accuracy but its emotional potency— "How does that statement make vou feel?"

But ultimately, winning or losing the Battle for the Bible rests here: Do we believe God?

Forty years ago, at least in the church, we were still facing the fading dinosaurs. Angry men denounced the accounts of miracles as primitive ignorance. Through the faithful work of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, however, the inerrancy of Scripture was maintained and championed.

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There's something odd about the West's shift modernism postmodernism. On the one hand, we would be wise to remember that the two are kin to each other. We can debate over whether they are father and son, older brother and younger, but no one can deny the family a fundamental common conviction: the Bible is hand, whatever the family relationship, this is not a happy and peaceful family. that the Bible is not true, they diverge as to their strongholds. reasons why. Modernism tells us the Bible is not The true because science is true, and the Bible is not crafty, slick. By flying science. Postmodernism the false flag of truce, tells us that the Bible is offering a gentlemen's

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it is all too easy to confuse the two perspectives. Because of the differences, it is vitally important not to do so. A modernist assault on the authority and trustworthiness of the Bible is radically different from a postmodern assault. The former is a direct attack, a blitzkrieg to the very heart of our defenses. God says He made man out of the dust of the ground; the modernist tells us this is false—man evolved from lower life forms. When dealing with the modernist, we can expose resemblance. his false assumptions, Both worldviews share challenge his affirmations, provide evidence for the truthfulness not true. On the other God's Word. We can marshal archeological studies, march through propositions, all while While both systems affirm raining cannon fire on the foundations of his

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1Peter 2:21

perspective, the "Battle for the Bible" was a rout and evangelicalism stood firm, and mainline churches and institutions bled members and lost influence.

The serpent, however, is ultimately, winning or both crafty and persistent. losing the Battle for the His current assault on the Bible rests here: Do we inerrancy of the Bible believe God? That, above therefore indirect. Now we have is to believe everything people who try to affirm He has said, to believe their belief in inerrancy it in our minds, in our while teaching that the hearts, and out through our Bible accommodated its fingertips. We are called message to its audience, to ever and always give that the Bible affirms our humble but exuberant things that we now know amen to His every word. are not true. We have We are not merely to people who try to arm affirm the truthfulness of their belief in inerrancy His Word in general but while teaching that what are called to submit to His we thought were historical Word at every particular. His Word can no more err narratives are actually We are, in short, to seek myths. We have people first His kingdom and His who affirm inerrancy but righteousness. go on to affirm that we should correct the sexism We seek His kingdom Paul imbibed from his best as we hear His voice surrounding culture.

In short, we have people the Bible is—the vox Dei, who affirm both that the "voice of God." We Bible is inerrant and that are not to worry about it, or at least some of our respectability or our it, is not to be believed. The serpent's goal from the beginning has been to get us to doubt God's Word. That he changes the weapons he uses doesn't From a sheer numbers mean he's changed his

> This highlights the real issue. Yes, inerrancy as a doctrine is vital. Certainly, inerrancy as an apologetic defense is critical. But law. postmodern all, is what we need—to more believe God. Our calling

> > most. That is just what

reputations, but rather are to be focused on the one needful thing—His direction in His Word. We seek His righteousness as we submit to His law.

When it is unfashionable. we submit to His law. When it is difficult, we submit to His law. When it swims against the cultural stream, we submit to His

In the end, inerrancy is less about our conclusion about the Bible and more about our submission to the Bible. We do not stand above it in judgment, even when we give it a perfect grade. Instead, it stands above us in judgment. And, to His everlasting glory, it gives those in Christ a perfect grade, despite our pride, our folly, our disobedience. For we are in Him, who is the Word of God incarnate, without error, and without blemish. than He, the Word, can err. We are in ourselves liars. He is in Himself true.

[Taken from Ligoneer Ministries, March 2015

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