

## **Trends infiltrating the Church**

When Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica he says of their attitude to the gospel he preached: “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” 1 Thess 2:13 Paul is thankful for the way in which the Church in Thessalonica views the nature of the gospel! They view the gospel not as Paul’s or man’s ‘invention’, but rather, they view it as God’s ‘intervention’! In other words they believed the gospel to be ‘inspiration’; God breathed revelation; the ‘words’ of the One true living God, spoken into the world supernaturally!

Friends, this battle over the nature of the gospel/Scripture will not go away! Is the gospel, the Bible or Scripture (all of it) ‘inspiration’ God breathed ‘revelation’? We know the ‘world’ derides such teaching; but the ‘church’ has also been denying the truth of this doctrine for decades!

Dr Martyn-Lloyd Jones, as I have often reminded you said, that the problem of theological education in the 1940’s, “was that men sat in judgement upon the Word, rather than under the judgement of the Word”. That is, they did not believe in the ‘inspiration’ of the totality of Scripture! They rejected those teachings of the Bible that were not ‘fashionable’ in the culture of the time, like the doctrines of ‘creation’ and ‘miracles’. The same pattern is being seen today in the ‘inclusive’ stance of the church – embracing all teachings/ideas, no matter how contrary to the gospel.

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