

The Bible says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." Was the inspiration then of First and Second Timothy an inspiration that God gave to some unknown writer 125 years after Christ's birth? No such promise of inspiration is found on the lips of Jesus Christ. The promise that our Saviour gave to His disciples was that God would bring things to *their* remembrance, that God would lead *them* into all truth, that God would show *them* things to come. Here you have the full force, the full impact of this 20th century attack upon the integrity of what the Bible says. Paul did not write it. Someone else that they do not know did it. Here is an attack upon the trustworthiness of what the message says at this particular time.

And when you come to the closing part of 2 Timothy, in the fourth chapter, where Paul writes those marvelous words, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"—Paul did not write it! That was put into his mouth by the man who wrote it after he had long since passed away. We are told that this is not plagiarism; it was a common practice. The effect of this is that, in accepting First and Second Timothy, we must recognize that this was the common practice in their day. If it was acceptable to the Christians of the first century as a common practice, why cannot we accept this practice today? Here morality and ethics and integrity in what a man is responsible for are destroyed. We are asked to believe that Paul gave us something when Paul did not do it at all. You say, "Pastor, how in the world could anything like that be?"

Personal Touch in Paul's Letters

Please turn to 2 Timothy 4:9: "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me." Timothy, come see me, he writes. "For Demas hath forsaken me. . . . Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." Think of that! He is telling that to a symbol! He is telling the symbol of Timothy to bring him the cloak that he left. He is telling the symbol of Timothy to bring him the books and especially the parchments. Here, symbol, get this for me, will you, please? All you have to do is to take these statements that I have just read to you from this Sunday school publication and then look at the Bible, and you see so plainly it has all the evidence of being written in the first person—the cloak he left, the books and the parchments he needed. Notice verse 19, "Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus