

## The Bible in the Eighties

It is easy enough to subscribe to the statement, 'The Bible is the Word of God', but to say exactly what that implies is quite another matter. How, for instance, do the undoubtedly divine and the obviously human relate? And when you have made up your mind on such issues, you then have the task of interpretation. These subjects have occupied the minds of Christian people very much, especially of late, so that it is appropriate for a Research Fellowship to survey the ground.

This will be done in three areas. First, the *Nature of the Bible* will be considered, with a paper committed to inerrancy and another presenting a different view — both by men with a high valuation of the authority of Scripture. Our intention is to set you thinking out your own position! The second section takes up the *Meaning of the Bible* and looks at meaning, critical disciplines, hermeneutics and cultural influences, as well as the time-honoured technique of allegorical interpretation. An important paper considers whether there is more than one biblical theology. At the end of each section, some books relevant to the themes are reviewed.

The third section recognizes that theory without practice is so much wind, and treats the *Use of the Bible*. Its public image, methods of study and private, family and corporate use are considered. The final paper sums up generally.

It is stressed that the ideas presented are not necessarily those of C.B.R.F. nor of the editor, but of the individual contributors. They will start you thinking and direct you to further literature which handles the themes more extensively. We offer them with the prayer that the Lord will use them to clarify our minds and sharpen our understanding, so that we will be more ably equipped to represent him in a doubting world.

G. J. POLKINGHORNE