

'The Truth Shall Set You Free: The Doctrine and Function of Scripture in the 21st Century' – The Affinity Theological Studies Conference 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the first online edition of *Foundations*. The articles in this edition are some of the papers which were given at the Affinity Theological Studies Conference, held in February 2011. The overall theme of the conference was *The Truth Shall Set You Free* and considered the Doctrine and Function of Scripture in the 21st Century.

In his introduction to the Conference the Chairman, Stephen Clark, wrote:

Making disciples, gathering them into the church, and then teaching them to observe all that Christ commands is the very heart and essence of the Church's task and mission upon earth. An essential element of the fulfilment of this commission is to ensure that the Christ who is proclaimed is the true Christ, the Christ of Scripture, and that whatever he taught – including his teaching on the nature and authority of Scripture – is part of the Church's message. Evangelicals have always regarded Scripture as of fundamental importance.

In recent years, however, essentially liberal ideas have infiltrated evangelicalism, and respected evangelical scholars and publishers have called into question aspects of the evangelical doctrine of Scripture. Although these views are not new and have been answered in the past, they are now gaining influence in some evangelical circles and cannot but have a harmful effect upon the Church's evangelistic, missionary, and pastoral task. The Affinity Theological Studies Conference brings together a range of speakers who are wholeheartedly committed to the evangelical doctrine of Scripture, in order to address some of these issues.

Although seeking to engage the issues at the highest level of scholarly responsibility, the papers are aimed at pastors and students, as well as scholars, so that the evangelical doctrine of Scripture may be restated for the twenty-first century, that gospel workers may be the better equipped for the task of mission.

In this first online edition of *Foundations* we are making the important issues considered at the Theological Studies Conference available to a wider audience.