

IS GOD THE AUTHOR OF THEM ALL?

by Leslie G. Thomas

Let us suppose that an evangelist comes to our community to conduct a religious meeting and proceeds as follows: At the first service he preaches that salvation is by faith only, but at the next one he contends that it is by faith exercised in obedience to the gospel rather than by faith alone. At the third service he declares that either sprinkling, pouring, or immersion is baptism, but at the fourth service he plainly shows that immersion is baptism. At the fifth service he tells the people that they ought to baptize their babies, but at the sixth service he says that penitent believers are the only spiritual subjects of baptism. At the seventh service he preaches once in grace, always in grace; but at the eighth he tells the people that it is possible for them to fall from grace, that some have fallen, and that the Bible tells how to keep from falling. At the ninth service he teaches that it is all right to have human creeds, but at the tenth he declares that we should take the Bible as our only guide in religion.

No thoughtful person would continue to listen to ONE preacher preach like that, but the majority of people are perfectly willing for TEN preachers to preach these conflicting ideas. They say that if one man should preach that way he would contradict himself and be inconsistent, but what kind of a God do they suppose we have if He endorses all these conflicting doctrines and has sent out these preachers to present them?