

Biblical Seminary's Roots

Although Bibliaal Theological Seminary is a comparatively young institution its roots go back a long way.

Even before the United States became a nation great revivals ~~xxx~~ centering around the preaching of ~~and the evangelistic center~~ ^{George Whitehead and the Tennants} reached out from the Log College, led to the establishment of a theological seminary at ~~PRIN~~ Princeton, New Jersey, which soon became widely known because of the outstanding Christian testimony and careful theological research conducted by such men as J. A. Alexander, Charles Hodge, A. A. Hodge, and B. B. Warfield.

During the latter part of the ~~19th century~~ ^{nineteenth century} ~~and nineteenth century~~ ^{twentieth century} nineteenth century most of the theological seminaries in America capitulated to the ~~natural~~ ^{destructive} naturalistic teaching of evolution and the Higher Criticism. This latter ^a movement, beginning with the Pentateuch, spread eventually through the entire Bible, and destroyed the faith of many. Through it all Princeton Seminary maintained a clear and unequivocal testimony to the great truths of the Reformed Faith ^{to} faith and ^{receiving} the necessity of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

In the early part of the ~~twentieth~~ ^{20th} century the scholars at Princeton began to feel isolated, as most of their counterparts in other institutions succumbed to the Higher Criticism. In 1920 ^{almost every} there was hardly a theological seminary in America ^{that} more than twenty years old that had not been taken over by the theological liberals, and the movement was developing to ^{bring} Princeton in line with these other institutions. Opposition to this ^{efforts} these movements was led by such great scholars at Princeton as Robert Dick Wilson and J. Gresham Machen, men with world-wide known through out throughout the world for their devoted stand for the Word of God.

These efforts to destroy the solid evangelical witness of Princeton Seminary reached a climax in 1929 when the Board of Princeton Seminary was reorganized in such a way as to give those desiring compromise with liberalism a majority, and the evangelical scholars at Princeton saw that their days the days of ascendancy of at Princeton of those who stood solidly for the Word of God would soon end. Dr. Wilson and Dr. Machen therefore left the school and started a new theological seminary at Philadelphia which they called Westminster Theological Seminary, and taught there the rest of their lives.

For a number of years Westminster gave solid evangelical training and the excellence of their graduates began to be widely recognized. After the death of both of the seminary founders it seemed to many, including Dr. Allan MacRae, who had been a member of Westminster's faculty from its beginning, that the seminary's major emphasis was being directed toward secondary doctrines and the major evangelical viewpoints were receiving a second place in it. In addition they saw that the view of that presuppositional theology or apologetics, which seemed to them to deny the value