

reliable and dependable and possibly not as serious an error as denying that Moses is the author of the overwhelming majority of the Pentateuch. The difference between some people as to the mode of baptism or as to the time when baptism should be administered is certainly not a fraction as important as the difference between those who hold to the dependability of the Bible and those who deny it, because that is a matter which affects the basic foundation of our religion. It is not like the matter of the difference between the high and low church, over which portions of the Anglican church become so greatly excited, or about wearing particular gowns.

Certainly I do not think it is anywhere near as important as the question whether Jesus Christ knew what He was talking about when He spoke of it as the book of Moses. It is vital to recognize Moses as the author, but it is far more important to recognize it as a true and dependable foundation. The higher criticism does not merely strike at the question, did Moses write it? It strikes at the far more important question, is it dependable? We are now getting into matters that are very important in this course.

In our discussion of the Authorship of the Pentateuch we notice that this is not really the primary question. Who wrote the book of Hebrews? We do not know. Nobody on earth knows who wrote Hebrews, but we do know that it was a book which was inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is in the canon on which the Holy Spirit led the early church to reach a unanimity, not by the decision of any man or group of men but by the Spirit of God working in the hearts of His people in the church as a whole. The same is true of many books of the Old Testament. Did Samuel write II Samuel? We know that Samuel did not write it because he died well before the beginning of the events described in II Samuel. Who wrote the books of Kings? There are many sections of the Old and New Testaments of which we do not know who the authors were, but we know that these books are part of that group of books on which Christ put the seal of His approval as God's Word. We know that whoever wrote any of them was a man inspired of God, and that therefore each is true. The vital matter is God's inspiration, not the name of the human author. In the case of the Pentateuch, the question of authorship is important because we