

Many such statements are circulated. I do not think anyone should circulate lies, knowing that they are lies. It is never right to do evil that good may result.

I believe that the cause of Christ is benefited in the end by learning what the truth is and being able to know what is correct and what is not. The development which we call the higher criticism has gone in a direction and has reached a position where it has become one of the greatest causes of turning away from true faith in God.

Rather than just standing aside and ridiculing it, or saying it is all nonsense, it is far better that there be those who know about it. I would like to see some conservatives who know much more of the facts about this matter. We need to know more about how it came into existence than most of the liberals who hold it today, most of them simply because they have been told that it is true. We should know the facts about it and be able to discuss it intelligently.

My first interest in this course is that you learn what the higher criticism is, that you have a little understanding of how it came into existence, and that you be able to discuss it with a fair measure of accuracy.

The Pentateuch exists. This is a fact. It is a book which the Christian world has had for centuries and which the Jewish world has had for still more centuries. Here is a book which is now a unit and which is highly revered. How did this book come into existence? When the truly scholarly person faces a fact, he must try to find some explanation for that fact. A century ago, unbelievers who hated the Word of God, attempted to explain it out of existence, and worked out such a clever explanation of its origin that many true believers found themselves unable to answer them and felt compelled to accept the explanation they gave. Many, though not all, of those who developed the higher criticism were unbelievers, hating the Scripture but facing the fact of its existence and desiring to find a way to account for it.

Suppose that you are in a desolate wilderness and you think that you are the first person who has ever been there. And then you look