

“These old-fashioned conservative ideas are a lot of foolishness; how can anyone believe such nonsense?” Each of you can presuppose that you are right and ignore the other and talk only to those who do not know anything about it. Perhaps, for a great many people, that is the way to do Christian work. But if we are going to reach the educated people of our day we have to be able to deal with them — at least with some of them — from a different attitude. Instead of presupposing that everyone else is wrong and we are the only persons who are right, we should be willing to look carefully at the facts — but we should make sure that we really know the facts! From here on we will be mostly looking at the arguments to see whether they hold weight. You cannot understand the arguments if you do not know what they are arguing about. That is why it is so important that you know exactly what the theory is and how it developed into its present form. I will not take time over number six, the Graf-Wellhausen Hypothesis, but will just briefly mention it, because we have dealt with everything in it hitherto. It is the review of the arguments. This is vital to have in mind.

What makes a person think that the Wellhausen theory is correct? It is important that we make this clear to people. The burden of proof should not be on us to disprove it, but on the man who believes it to prove it.

When I was in college, we had a professor of philosophy who one day presented some rather brief material on Freudianism. A little later I met him on the campus and said to him, “I did not think your argument was really proof for Freudianism. I did not think it sufficient to prove it.” “Well,” he said, “what is wrong with Freudianism? How can you disprove it?” He tried to put me into the position that Freudianism was true unless I could disprove it. That is a very clever way of arguing, but the requirement [burden of proof] is really upon the man who holds something to prove that it is right. It is not upon the other person to prove that it is wrong. The Bible exists. Here is this book which has been passed down for thousands of years. We have the five books of Moses. They can be traced back at least to 200 B.C. in substantially their present form. But nobody now has a J document or an E document or a P document. No one can show you any tangible evidence that such documents actually existed. There is