

if you go out to win people to Christ by thinking you can explain every difficulty we have with the Bible because it is not necessary that a person believe the Bible is free from error in order to become a Christian. It is necessary that he believe that if he is to become an effective servant, if he is to be a Christian whose life is fruitful in the Lord's service but he can be taught that after he becomes a Christian. If he takes Christ as his Lord, he will want to follow what is Christ's will for him and the approach to him is not the approach of proving that the Bible is free from error. The approach to the non-Christian is one of several different approaches and of course it is useful with him to show attacks which have been made on the Bible and how these attacks have been proven fruitless, that is a valuable message-- here is a big attack on the Bible which seems to throw it out of consideration altogether and you show this attack is just nothing. All right, but to say that the Bible can resist any attack and that you can prove every word of it is free from error, that is not the approach to the non-christian. A more important approach is the evidence of the resurrection, the character of Christ particularly, the fact of sin in life, the striving of man to find an answer, the failure of any answer to be satisfactory except the answer which Christianity gives us.

III The Canon of the O.T.

This is a big subject which will take us a large part of our term. It is an old theological word. We have noticed that we call the O.T. God's Word--is the O.T. just a collection of books or a collection of sacred books and not a sacred collection of books and they should be taken as a whole. It isn't attributed to any church or group of people that made a collection but it is something that relates to the individual book that was intended by the Holy Spirit to be a part of that collection. The Bible is the collection of books which were inspired and which the Holy Spirit intended to be a part of His work. Canon means the standard--the measure by which other things are tested. The Greeks had a canon of old writings and later writings were always tested by this standard which they had--that was the norm. We are interested not in what books are the test--it is the standard. The word is used commonly ~~now~~ in meaning if we have the right books or not but it actually means the authority of the books. ILL. of Time magazine. How do we know which are the inspired books--the R.C. claim that we have 72 books. Today is a vital question as to how we know that we have the right books. Can the church decide whether or not to put some books out as Brunner claims? what are the correct books and how do we know that these are correct?