

THE HIGHER CRITICAL ASSAULT UPON THE SCRIPTURES

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Elkins Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 15, 1968 5:00 - 5:30

A few years ago at a great university I attended a meeting that was addressed by a world-renowned theologian. The eminent speaker presented a philosophy of life that was entirely different from that held by conservative Christians. His sparkling personality, his brilliant mind and his well thought-out phrases carried tremendous weight with his large audience of college students. That evening he addressed a smaller group composed largely of theological professors and Bible teachers from a wide area, many of whom had come quite a distance to hear him describe what he called "the rebirth of liberalism in Germany." After the evening lecture he spent nearly an hour answering questions about current movements, and expressed himself freely on a number of matters. I shall never forget his response to one of the questions, in the course of which he said: "You can never imagine the terrible anguish and misery that I went through, having come from the home of a very orthodox German pastor, when I learned, as a student in the university, that I could no longer accept the Bible as dependable and free from error."

Realizing the world-wide influence exerted by this prominent theologian, and observing the real anguish that he expressed as he remembered his student days, I thought of many other individuals who had had this same experience. The Higher Criticism convinced them that the Bible is not true. Men who could have been great evangelists, great leaders in Christian work, great powers for God, went out to spend their lives tearing down Christian truth and leading others away from the teaching of God's Word because they themselves had been convinced by the Higher Critical assault upon the Scriptures.

It was not long ago that almost every one of our great American denominations was insisting that its ministers declare their faith in the absolute integrity of the Word of God. It was not long ago that the Scriptural Gospel was preached on almost every corner in America. It was not long ago that the great majority of the pulpits in the Protestant countries of Europe were occupied by Bible-believing men. It was not long ago that the missionary activities in every part of the world were manned almost entirely by those who accepted the Bible as God's infallible rule of faith and practice, and who had not greater ambition than to bring individuals to a personal knowledge of the Christ who is described in the Word of God.

Today the situation is vastly changed. From being an overwhelming