

11/8/73

## Biblical Criticism

Now we come to an area of Biblical Criticism that is very important. I wish ~~that~~ ~~that~~ we had five hours to devote to it instead of about fifteen minutes. Its importance is little recognized by the average Chn°, yet it is apt greatly to affect his life. This is what a century ago was called the "Higher Criticism." At that time the term "higher criticism" was used in relation to all ancient writings in order to try to determine who was the author, and whether the book is a unit or whether it is made up of parts by different writers. Today the term is no longer used this way. In books on literary criticism it is ~~not-use~~ hardly used these days except with relation to the Bible. The reason for this is that the great trend in this direction that was so powerful a century ago has petered out except in relation to the Bible. However, in relation to the Bible it is stronger than ever, and has tremendous influence. I have known of ~~student~~ student after student, brought up in a Chn° background, anxious to serve the Lord, perhaps well trained in the Bible, who has gone to a secular college or to ~~the~~ a theological seminary in which the results of the higher criticism were accepted, and who has not only lost his faith but has proceeded to spend a tremendous effort in trying to convince other people of the results of the higher criticism, and to ~~tear~~ tear down Chn° teaching. The higher criticism was largely known only to scholars for a long time. Recently, however, it is being popularized more than ever before. Within the last ten years ~~many~~ many of our great denominations have issued Sunday School literature with the charts called "Time Line of the Bible" or something similar in which they have shown the teachings of the higher criticism for the lay members of the church to assimilate. Not long ago I went into a <sup>public</sup> library in one of our big cities, and asked for the recent books about the OT°. I found at least twenty books written of popular nature ~~written~~ published within the previous decade on such subjects as "A Path Through Genesis" "Interpreting the ~~the~~ OT°," ~~the~~ "Understanding the OT°," other titles of this sort, some written by <sup>of</sup> Protestants, some by Roman Catholics, some by Jews, but all of them presenting the <sup>attitudes</sup> ~~results~~ of the higher criticism as established fact. Today we have a little group of Chns° in the world, a comparatively