Inerrancy Update Summer Institute, 1983

page 6

in inerrancy and taught it in a Southern Baptist Seminary in the south. He was a member of the Advisory Council, and it was mentioned how because he believed in inerrancy that seminary had refused to let him teach any of the required courses. He could only teach electives, and they made him feel so uncomfortable for it that he dropped out of the seminary. Others joined with him and formed an independent seminary in 2 and it seemed to be progressing well.

Then there was a man there named Paige Patterson who is head of a school Dr. Criswell had formed in connection with his church in Dallas. He told about conditions in the SBC. He said we have six seminaries. He said we have 53 colleges and universities and there is not one of these 59 institutions in which a person would not be ridiculed and scoffed at if he believed in the inerrancy of the Bible. He said he believes they could keep on electing sound men as presidents of the SBC, and in a few years these men would be able to appoint new members to commissions who would have general charge of the educational work of the convention that in the end they could reform these six seminaries. and bring them back in line with Scriptural teaching. But he said the 53 colleges and universities are completely gone! as far as sound Christian teaching is concerned.

I never personally had much contact with the Southern Baptists. I've had contact with similar developments in other denominations. But it brought very clearly to mind==to my attention the developments that have occurred in our Christian institutions during this century. At the beginning of this century there were maybe 500 colleges in the U.S. in which the Word of God was held to be inspired of God and free from error and vital for our lives. Of those institutions that were standing that way at the beginning of the century, I would feel perfectly safe in saying that 90% of them at least tear down Christian faith today, and we have a development which has changed the attitude toward Christianity of the educators portion of our population.

When I attended college back in the '20s we were told that we were one percent (we who went to college) were one percent of the population! But in recent years the number who attend college has been getting larger and larger all the time. In most of our colleges and universities Christianity is scoffed at and ridiculed. While the various readings of the attitudes of the people who are being taken that show that the great majority of the Americanpeople believe that the Bible is true, even if they don't know much about it, and believe that the great facts of Christianity are true, the people who go to most of our colleges and universities find that their Christian beliefs are attacked and ridiculed and it has an effect on them which produces an influence in our country far out of porportion to the number of people involved by it but it is a number that is growing constantly, and it makes one wonder what is the future of our country.

When I was in college, I remember a young fellow there-- a very earnest, ardent Christian fellow--he afterwards went as a missionary to India. He was in one of big cities of India as a