

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 no 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 majority of the clergy, believers in full Biblical dependability have become a comparatively small minority. They are still to be found in every land, but the leadership and control of the old denominations, of the long-established missionary movements, and of the famous institutions of theological learning has largely passed into the hands of those who look to human thought and human imagination for decisions on how to revolutionize the world, instead of looking to the Word of God for information on how to bring individuals to the knowledge of Christ.

What has brought about this great change? Naturally there are many factors involved. Ever since man was created Satan has been actively endeavoring to lead men astray. Ever since man fell, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life have been urging him away from the paths of God's appointing. These factors have always been with us. All of them enter into the tremendous change that the past century has seen, but the new and greatest factor in producing it has been the Higher Critical assault upon the Scriptures.