

Skillful propaganda has convinced great numbers of our educated classes that the Higher Criticism is true, but most of these people actually know little about it.

A graduate of Faith Seminary recently took the pastorate of a large independent church in a small town. Soon he learned that the pastor of a neighboring church belonging to one of our great denominations was insisting that the Higher Criticism is true, and that our belief in the plenary inspiration of the Word of God is therefore absurd. He challenged the man to a debate and the man accepted. The debate was held in the high school. Hardly had they started, however, before it became apparent that the minister who was defending the Higher Criticism knew practically nothing about the actual views of Wellhausen. It was necessary for the debater against the Wellhausen view to explain clearly what the view is, in order to show its errors.

It is not enough for us today to say that the Higher Criticism is wrong. We should know why it is wrong. We should know the evidences. We should know the situation. With the advances in archaeology, and with the changed attitude in literary study, it is easier today than ever before on an objective scientific basis to show that the Higher Criticism is wrong. But the Higher Criticism is being more widely taught than ever before, is finding expression in the new creeds that are being adopted by large denominations, and is destroying the faith of ministerial students all over the world. There is, in my opinion, no greater need for the Christian world today than that believers in Christ should know the facts about the Higher Criticism and should be prepared to bring these facts to the attention of those who are being misled in our colleges, in the Sunday Schools of most of our large denominations, and even in our high schools where the teaching of the Higher Criticism as established fact is being more and more widely introduced.