

convinced that it is valid there, scholars then extended it to every other book of the Bible. If it works there, it is reasonable to think it will work in other places.

On the other hand, if we can find that the methods used are erroneous there, then we will find that we have little reason to worry about them in most other places. A smattering of the arguments about the whole Old Testament would not be a fraction as helpful to you as a thorough understanding of just what the higher criticism of the Pentateuch means, and upon what basis it rests.

There are some fine Christian schools in which the people know nothing about the higher criticism except to have it occasionally sneered at and ridiculed, and students go out and talk to other persons who already are of the same view as they are, and they sneer at and ridicule the higher criticism. It is easy to do that, but it is easy to ridicule anything. People ridicule our Christian faith and it is not difficult to do. You can take ignorant people and you can increase their loyalty and their support of you by that sort of an approach, but if you are going to be effective workers for Christ in these days you are going to have to deal with people of intelligence who read magazines and books and will not be satisfied with simply brushing it aside with a word of ridicule.

If you get the value you should out of this course, you will have a tremendous advantage when you meet these people. You will have an advantage not only because you know what they are talking about, but because you will know its basis better than they will.

The higher criticism is a growth. It is a theory that today is taught in practically every theological seminary over 30 years of age, and in practically every university in the world where anything is taught about the Bible. If the theories that are taught today had been advanced 100 years ago, people would have just put them aside and paid no attention to them. It would have been too big a jump from the view they held to these views.