

are convinced of the higher criticism, you have a tremendous advantage.

So I feel that, rather than give you a little information about all the books of the Old Testament, to try to show that they are dependable, it is good to look in depth at one vital section -- the Pentateuch. We shall examine the many changes in the higher criticism during the last two hundred years, and see how the views that were held in one period or another have gradually changed. We shall look at the arguments that led to these changes, and see the very questionable basis on which the whole thing rests, as it is taught today. If you can get a real understanding of this matter you will have something that can be of tremendous value to you in your Christian service. It may be of great value to you now as you deal with individuals, or you may have very little use for it for a few years, but I am sure that if you get a real knowledge of it, there will be many times within the next ten years when you will find this knowledge extremely valuable. However, you need to have more than a superficial knowledge, in order to have a really good understanding of what the destructive higher criticism of the Pentateuch is, how it has developed, and why it is wrong.

Since we feel that our primary task in the seminary is to give you a good start in understanding the Bible, and a foundation in methods of doing Christian work, so that you can go on to serve the Lord effectively, we confine our study of the higher criticism of the Pentateuch to this one course. Therefore it is very important this course gives you a clear understanding of the main points in this very large subject, that you get its principle features solidly in mind, so that you will have them when you need them, even if it be five or six years from now.

It is important to realize that this is not a straw man; it is not