

EVOLUTION AND CREATION

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9/21/66

Tonight I am to speak to you on the subject of evolution and creation. I want to bring out a few ideas in this connection that I think are rather important for us to be familiar with. I feel that there is nothing that has done more to injure Christian faith and tear away from belief in Christ this last 100 years than the teaching of evolution and its embodiment in biblical criticism in the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis. This latter has destroyed the faith of theological students and has resulted in many of our pulpits being occupied by men who don't believe the Bible. But the rank and file of our people have been affected by evolution and led to believe that the Bible is myths and legends. I believe that one reason why this has been so successful is that Christian people have not thought the thing through, and have not taken a clear understanding of what the Bible teaches and what == and thus have caused great confusion which has led our young people to be led astray.

It is very easy to give just a superficial interpretation of some thing in the Bible and make it sound very convincing, particularly with people who are already favorable with the Bible. But when we have our people with very superficial understanding of the Bible it makes it very easy for unbelief to lead them away. So I think it is vital that we lead our young people to have a clear understanding of these important matters about the Scripture. One area in which I believe particular harm has been done is in the particular area because we have said, Evolution; wicked! Without thinking what we mean by evolution. I think we should think it through very carefully.

A young man once said to me, "How can anyone doubt evolution. Why anyone can see the evolution of a boy into a man!" That impressed me as ludicrous when I first heard it. But it's not quite so ludicrous when you think of it. The word evolution today is used very generally in the sense of development. It is used constantly that way. We talk about the evolution of the automobile. The evolution of the airplane, of this that and the other. Development, and they give the impression that we Christians believe that everything is static. We don't believe that at all. The Bible is not a static book. The Bible is a book that shows how God has acted; it shows what God has done. It shows how God has dealt with changing situations. It shows a dynamic active God, a God who is unchanging. Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever, in His attributes but not a God who is like a picture or a statue who stands there and never moves. A God who feels pity, who feels sorrow over our sin, who feels grief when we turn away from Him, but who feels joy when we turn to the Lord. He is an active God. Jesus Christ was tempted in all points like as we are and yet without sin. He is active, vital. The word evolution is the common idea of development. The world is full of development. A caterpillar, look at it and see it change into a butterfly! Utterly different. Who would ever believe that that would develop into that? One of the marvels of God's creation. The world is full of development and God chooses that certain things develop and change so that they are somewhat different at a later time. He can do what He chooses in this regard. Science tells us today that the earth is turning around on its