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In the case

~~Although God has no~~ ~~indicates~~ of some masterpieces from antiquity our only evidence is one copy made, say, ~~in~~ in the 12th century A. D. and we have no other basis on which to determine the correct text. In the case of the Bible we ~~have~~ have hundreds, yes, ~~perhaps~~ perhaps one might say thousands, we have thousands of manuscripts that can be compared and checked to see what variants have come in, and to try to determine the original text. Lower criticism is a very interesting and valuable study.

Two Englishmen of the last century, Westcott Wescott and Hort (get precise names) devoted many years to the study of the NT<sup>o</sup> and deserve great credit for their determination as to which were the earliest manuscripts, and their efforts to compare these, and to determine which were the best manuscripts. Unfortunately they went to an extreme of considering that the earliest manuscripts that have been preserve must necessarily be the best in all regards. These manuscripts are three centuries after the time of Christ and many changes may have come in ~~it~~ since that time. By end (?) Errors can easily have crept into particular manuscripts by that time. To lay(nc) <sup>They lay</sup> such great store on the two earliest manuscripts that sometimes they would accept the text of one of them against all others. The ~~principal~~ principal result of their activity was to rule out as not being genuine many phrases that are not found in ~~manuscripts~~ manuscripts until a century or two later, some of them not even found until a thousand years after their time. Wescott and Hort went too far in the attention that they gave to a very few of the earliest manuscripts. Scholarship since has moved away from their ~~an~~ extreme position in this regard. Yet there is no doubt that they made a ~~g~~ very great contribution to the study of textual criticism. Most of the phrases that have been inserted later are simply phrases put in by an error of a scribe taken from another passage where the phrases actually do occur, or laying greater stress on a Biblical doctrine that is already taught with ~~an~~ abundant clearness clarity in Scripture. None of them affect