

Biblical Criticism Has Brought Decay

Biblical criticism disputes the claim of Holy Scripture to be God's revelation, the inspired Word of God. In this way it destroys faith, although it would neither intend nor admit to that. But as a German hymn asks, "If your Word is no longer valid, on what can faith be founded?"

In Germany preaching based on biblical criticism has emptied the churches, because few people see any reason for attending worship when they are offered only the stones of arbitrary personal opinion rather than the bread of the Word of God. Biblical criticism has brought on a decay of values: historical-critical theology considers it untenable to teach adolescents that the Ten Commandments are God's binding instructions.

Instead of taking to heart "whatever is noble" and "whatever virtue there may be" (Phil. 4:8), it has disparaged honesty, punctuality, hard work, and the like as mere secondary virtues, holdovers from a Prussian mentality that should no longer be upheld. In addition some streams of historical-critical thinking popularize the Communist slogan that owning property is thievery. The alleged decay of values is therefore in fact an utter destruction of values, brought about not single-handedly but with the substantial assistance of historical-critical theology.

It is true that God's inspired Word needs no defense. What needs defending is the access to it that biblical criticism has obstructed. That is the task of Old and New Testament apologetics: "The weapons we fight with are not fleshly but divinely powerful for the destruction of strongholds; we demolish specious reasonings and every lofty pretension that opposes the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

(Biblical Criticism on Trial: How Scientific is “Scientific Theology”? by Eta Linnemann, Translated by Robert Yarbrough, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 2001 English Translation, [2009], Kindle, Location 51 & 58 of 2193, Paragraph Structure Modified)