

CHAPTER 2 — *In which material is discussed from Where Our Bible Came from, by J. Carter Swaim (National Board of the YMCA); and Sunday school lessons from: Adult Teacher, January, September, 1964 (General Board of Education of The Methodist Church); Crossroads, October-December, 1964 (Board of Education of The United Presbyterian Church); Senior Department Lessons (The New Curriculum of the United Church of Canada).*

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:9-11).

This year there has appeared a rather general move to introduce into the Sunday school literature of our churches, the major churches, the old and shopworn higher critical view of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament and the Pentateuch. It is called the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis, taking its name from two German higher critics who over 50 years ago made this assault upon the accuracy and trustworthiness of the Bible. Accompanying this critical attack upon the trustworthiness of the Scriptures there is also the philosophical attack which involves an effort to impose upon the Scriptures the theory of evolution—the human race has come into existence by evolution, a process that has brought man from the lower to the higher, and consequently in the religious field we also must see this similar process developing. So we have the "primitive" religion of Israel, its "myths" and "legends"; and, finally, a broader polytheism with the recognition of various gods. Then in the zenith of this process they came to a monotheism that recognized one god. But this did not come until a very late period in Israel's history. Now this philosophical approach has to be imposed and is imposed on the Scriptures.

As for us, we take the Bible as it is, at its face value. Whatever the Book represents itself to be, we recognize it to be, and we accept the authority of Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church. The Old Testament was given to us by the prophets, and Jesus said,