

said, "Whoso shall offend (or cause to stumble) one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea." Is there anything more fitted to cause stumbling to the little ones who believe in Him than to be taught that His word is not to be implicitly trusted, that modern scholars know more than He that modern science proves His ignorance of subjects on which He has spoken. The unsettling influences of the questions of the higher criticism are acknowledged on every hand. Indeed, the cold blooded way in which this is sometimes spoken of is simply appalling. Listen: "There is a crisis, and there can be no doubt that there will be need of much wise and patient meditation, before the popular mind can be brought to rest in any form of the critical view. . . . It is also certain that in the transition time some will make shipwreck of faith." Mark the statement. Some will certainly make shipwreck of faith. Recall the Saviour's words. Little ones who believe in me made to stumble. Their confidence in Him, which is their strength and safeguard, will be undermined, is being undermined, by those who do not accept as final the word of Christ on any subject on which He speaks. He who died for the little ones who cling to Him in faith will soon reckon with all who have caused them to stumble. His words of warning are very plain and very terrible, "It were better for that man that a great millstone were hanged about his neck and

that he were drowned in the depths of the sea." God save us undershepherds from the condemnation of the Chief Shepherd when He appears.

3. A great responsibility rests on us in regard to the work our Saviour has given us to do. On the day that He ascended He said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth." From that day to this, many have arisen who have devoted themselves heart and soul to the work of carrying out this high commission. They have done great things in His name. They have fought a good fight. They have won famous victories. How? Listen to the acknowledgement of one of the critics, "The whole magnificent spiritual outgrowth of Christianity came from the Old Testament understood in a pre-critical manner. How can any critical re-construction of it now bring with it any large spiritual profit to Christians? In the nature of the case we cannot expect it, and it would seem as if the best critics could hope to do when their work is finished, is to give the Bible back to the average man with undiminished power." Mark the words. All the past victories of the Church have been won through the power of the word used in a pre-critical manner. Used thus it has proved itself in many a tough encounter, the sword of the Spirit, and "mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds." But the higher critics have got it into their hands to reconstruct. Are we to wait ten, fifty, a