

Since the opportunity to mend our losses seems to be in the rather distant future, one prime target of the recovery efforts which we are making will concern the proper education of our children. If our losses are to be regained, it appears that it will be mainly during the next generation. The children of evangelical Christians will have to receive good-quality science training for this, from elementary school on up. And they will have to learn the difference between just "playing around with science" and actually entering into honest scientific research. They will also have to learn to think logically and critically. If they are in some of the better public schools they may perhaps be able to acquire a fairly good background in science. If they are in private, church-related schools they will likely have real difficulty in receiving good training in science, until such time as the science teachers of such schools can themselves be given a better background in science. One of the essential features of a good science education is the use of truly scientific textbooks. So, the textbooks now being used in most of the Christian schools will have to either be replaced or undergo a thorough renovation. (This textbook problem is the subject of Part II of this paper.)

Another equally important requirement for recovery of the creationist cause will be the dissemination of a knowledge of good Bible-study methods. Widespread, faulty biblical exegesis and hermeneutics (methods of interpretation) have been a major cause of the present young-earth extremism. So, both the present adult generation and the children in our Christian schools will have to be taught some of the sound exegetical and hermeneutical methods which the Bible-believing creationist scholars of the first half of this century used. These methods were well-worked-out before this century even began, and they are now in continuous use by many faithful, Bible-believing scholars; but they are unknown to practically all young-earth creationists. The reason that it is so important for us to have systematic Bible study methods is that a lack of them will quickly set us to defending one or more unbiblical ideas which we, by crude methods of study, have understood to be obligatory. If the unbiblical idea has to do with the origin or nature of the universe or any part of it, a harmful conflict with scientific data will very likely follow.