

tremendously helpful. Then you get the situation where unbelievers get control, and then of course it can be tremendously harmful.

I talked with a man once who left the church on account of its modernism, and he wanted to be absolutely by himself. He was afraid of denominations. I said to him and organization is like a hoe. A farmer can go out and try to cultivate his field with his fingers, but he can do it many times better and faster if he uses a hoe. The fact that he could take that hoe and hit somebody else over the head with it and kill him is not a reason to dispense with the hoe but to be sure that it is properly used.

So I have felt that organizations of all kinds can be very useful but that they are tools, and should never be ends in themselves. That's once thing I was a bit disgusted with in the days just before I left the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., was the attitude of some of the men who were working closest with Dr. Macher, perhaps even to some extent-- I'm not so sure-- but the way some of them talked was as if here is a church which is a witness, a testimony, an end in itself, and if that church takes an official act it renders it apostate and thereby that church comes from being a fine thing to being a bad thing.

I don't feel that is the right attitude. I feel the church is the instrument for reaching people and it should be used for that purpose, and if it gets in the hands of wicked people we have to leave it and start from scratch but the individual we reach is the vital thing and aspect.

I'm constantly running into people who get this attitude that we are an organization and it becomes the objective. So you might say those are two emphases: One is the primacy of the Scripture, not simply as a banner to wave or as a source for proof-texts or something in which to look for illustrations to illustrate your thoughts but as the source of knowledge. And the second is the primary task of the Christian is doing that which will help in the development of other Christian individuals and of course his own development in grace,

Neher: And that goes for seminary professors and Christian leaders of all kinds as well as pastors.

Oh yes, I would say so definitely. Very definitely. Yes, I would say for anyone in Christian work it's the -- it is not what he does in building an organization, it is what he does in reaching individuals who may grow into effective Christians who may be used of Christ. It's the relation to individuals.

Of course if you can extend your influence to reach more individuals that's fine. But it is the individuals rather than the organization which should be the objective. We should not therefore cast aside organizations because some organizations fall into wicked hands, but we should seek to work out those types of organizations that will be effective for the purpose of advancing the actual abjection and not become the objective in themselves.

I remember when I was at Princeton Seminary. They got a union of the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregational I believe it was.