

in the Synod meetings got up and pointed out that this was rather silly. It didn't make much difference. Why make this change, and so they voted it down.

Then he made another proposal. I got up and spoke against it. I spoke against quite a number of these things they had agreed upon, and they were all voted down. I didn't see what they were doing at all. I simply rather enjoyed exerting the influence there. And Dr. McIntire wasn't there that day. One or two of the elders from Collingswood church were there, and also some other prominent members of Synod did not get there until the next day. But the next day they were coming and telling me how they appreciated what these elders had told them about how I was standing for the onstitution, etc.

I get they got the idea that I had a greater loyalty to them than I had, and some of the others got the idea that I was against their objective, when I had not really understood it, and that may have even colored the development of the next four years until the group finally left us. But it was one of those unintended consequences ~~of~~ as White speaks of it.

That was nearly 25 years ago. I have not kept up with what I had gained in speaking in those times. I have not kept it up. I don't think I've gone back to the point I was at the beginning of that, but I've probably lost 2/3 of what I'd gained during that period. But it showed me the great importance of speaking effectively. I stressed it a great deal in general talks to the students and we have put much more stress on it in our teaching here that probably almost any other seminary. That is the result of my coming to realize it's importance.

That was one thing in the development of the Synod and I thought it was of some importance. The other thing we were speaking of the other day when I was speaking of different categories of people. I think it's important to keep in mind in our Christian witness that the most important thing by far is our spiritual influence, our leading people to see themselves as sinners and to see Christ as the necessary Saviour, the only Saviour. That is by far the most important thing we can do.

I should not say the most important because equally important is helping Christians to grow in grace and to come to know the Lord better. But then there is the whole mental area-- the area of our beliefs and ideas. I do not believe we can tell who is saved. Because I believe there are many hypocrites. I think there are people who may think they are saved but are not. I don't know how much they have thought about it, but they assume they are.

I believe only the Lord knows His own. We cannot always be sure on that, but we have this imporant thing of our influence intellectually on people. That is less important than the direct spiritual influence but it is a thing that enters into the activities of all of us, and it is from that viewpoint that I spoke, that I feel happy to see someone who is lazy and indolent stand up and work and accomplish something even though I may not be in favor of his actual objectives.