

Now I'm not thinking of that so much particularly, but I'm thinking of our whole life here in seminary. I heard of a student who graduated from a seminary and went to one of the professors--it was not a seminary with which I was connected--he went to the professor the last day after he finished his examinations, and said, Professor, I have finished at the top of my class and I'm at the bottom of my spiritual life. The professor asked: What were you working for? He said, Well I was working for A's. He said, You got your A's. You got what you were working for.

It's good to work for A's. Good to get them. Good to make intellectual progress. But it is good at the beginning of the semester to think of the fact that we should watch our spiritual thermometer constantly. We should make sure we are growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord and that we are getting the Scripture in mind more and more every day.

Paul spent 3 yrs. in Arabia before beginning his active ministry. I don't think he spent those years daydreaming. I don't think he spent them admiring the scenery there, in that desert area. Paul immersed his mind in the reading of the Scripture. Paul prepared himself for the active service to Christ that was ahead.

You have a period of preparation now. It is easy to look ahead to the end of that period and it seems a long ways off. It is easy to look at the end of the semester and it seems a long distance off. But yet the semester will come more quickly than you might think. Alas there are some at the end of the semester, even though it will then be winter, rather than summer, they intend at that time to quote the words of Jeremiah: The summer is gone, the harvest is passed and I am not saved. The semester can go and the end come upon you before you realize it. I feel it is very important at the beginning of the semester to think about trying to push ahead ~~and~~ in the first few weeks so that you can sort of coast in the last.

If you are relaxed when exams come you will do twice as well as you will if you are all tense and have been cramming and cramming. The regular work, the systematic work, the work through this semester is what will count and what will last. So it is very important in the matter of the studies we are doing that you work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

It won't be long before you have some assignments for papers in various courses. How easy it is to say, The paper is due on Dec. 1, well, about Nov. 25 I'll begin to work night and day and get it done. How much better as soon as you know about your paper, as soon as you can to get started ~~add~~ to get it finished ahead of time. It's better for your education. You will probably write a better paper but most important you will be developing habits that will be useful to you in all your future life.

Have you ever seen a minister rush into the pulpit wondering if he