

now I've gone to the Mission Board and they have told me to start out on deputation work. Well I thought, he's had three years of misery in training for the mission field, what kind of training was that to prepare him to serve the Lord effectively? He may have learned a great deal of value, but it sounds as if he looked back to three years of misery rather than to three years of frowning in the things of the Lord..

I've known people who have come to seminary who have had very quick minds-- minds like a blotter--they could pick up things very quickly. They could listen to a lecture and could pick it up; they would write it out on examinations and they would forget all about it! I have seen one or two very bright students who have gone through seminary and have seemed to enjoy every bit of it and do topwork, work and later on I have wondered if anything stayed with them! Are you here simply to sop up some stuff, get it into your head, write it out get a degree and then go out and forget about it? Or are you here to learn to interpret God's Word?

You hear the professor say something in class. Do you just write it down and try to memorize it? Or do you take time to think it through? Is that true what he said? What are its implications? What importance will it have for me in days to come? It may have tremendous implications for you in your future work, but if you don't think of them now, it will be more apt to be put from your mind and not be of much value to you, expect to go back over some old notes in future years and look over them and say, I wonder what I meant by that? particular note then? You remembered it perhaps long enough to take an examination.

But if in your seminary work you can take time to think things through, time to question the things that are given you, time to do some extra reading that is not assigned., to think of unique aspects of it that you will need further information on that you can discuss with the professor = that you are not sometime years later wondering about. And perhaps then you will not have the background to clarify it, but here you could now clarify it and make real progress.

Seminary is not just something to go through, something to sop up and take with you. It is an opportunity to think things through and to learn to be able to understand God's Word, to learn to be able to go to it yourself and find what it taught there. So that you don't have to go to a professor or to quote some theologian or quote some writer, but you can do it yourself and say this saith the Lord; this is what the Bible says! Were you able to do that last year? Are you able to do it this year?

This particular man that I ~~had~~ mentioned, when he finished I thought when I read that letter, Oh if that fellow had only spread his course over an extra year! And taken a little extra time to think things through and get value from his seminary work beyond just a degree! To a young person a year seems like a long long time. Three years seem like such a long stretch. I find some young men who have graduated from college and they say three years-- year three years long. Oh it seems like such a long long time. Three years in seminary! Then when they graduate from seminary