

I hear that the seniors are talking of roasting the faculty. I'm sure they are not thinking of roasting me in my absence. In my more than 50 years of teaching I don't believe I ever missed a seminary banquet. But this year it so happened I made an appointment over a year ago without realizing that date would be selected for the banquet, and I have to speak in Doylestown on that evening. This will be the first time I've missed. I hope it's not the first time I'll be roasted in my absence! I've been roasted in my presence on a good many occasions.

Now I'd like to read to you from the book of Proverbs the eighth chapter. (Reading from the NIV)... comment on; v.17 those who seek me find me. A very interesting and important statement. I recently read a statement by a noted man that he felt that one of the greatest values to be derived from education is the ability to do the thing that ought to be done at the time it needs to be done regardless of whether we feel like it or not. I think that is true of all education. Even if you forget what you've learned, if you learned to do what ought to be done at the time it ought to be done no matter whether you feel like it or not, you have received one of the greatest values that any education can possibly give. The recent trend in public education is to try to make everything easy and interesting, and make people enjoy it more, but probably greatly decreasing the ultimate value they derive from it.

Continuing here then... those who seek me find me (Continuing vv. 17ff. to v. 22. Verse 22 is one that has been much argued about. "The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old." On the word "possessed me" there is in the NIV a footnote which says "or the Lord brought me forth." The Jehovah's Witnesses put a great deal of emphasis on this verse, and translate it "the Lord created me" and try to use it as an evidence against the complete deity of Christ.

It is a very difficult verse because the word translated "possessed" is a ~~xxxx~~ word the exact meaning of which it is extremely difficult to get hold of. The word is sometimes translated "to purchase" and sometimes "to possess," or "to acquire." To insist it means "to create" is certainly wrong because the Bible so clearly teaches us everywhere that Jesus Christ is uncreated. He is God from all eternity.

It is unfortunate, and a rather foolish idea originated back in c. the 3rd century, the idea that Christ was eternally generated by the Father. I don't think anybody knows what that means. But it is derived from a misunderstanding of monogenes which was taken from the verb genao, to beget. This was mistranslated into English as "the only begotten Son." I saw an article in a Christian paper not long ago objecting to the fact the NIV translated it "only son" instead of "only begotten Son". The article said, only God can have an only-begotten son! I was disgusted to see that especially since I know the writer of the article is a very brilliant man, who