

than the man who gets A's without half trying. The man who gets A's without half trying, if he'll work as hard as the man who has to work hard to get C. He of course if he tries equally and does not sin or allow sickness to get hold of his life, he will probably from a human viewpoint accomplish much more in this life than the student who has to struggle to get C. But the one who can get A's without trying, or the one who can get C's without trying will probably never accomplish anything in the Lord's service. We are in a race right now, and the Apostle has commanded us that we should remember that if people who are working for a human prize work so hard in order to gain the preparation, in order to be ready and in order to carry through the race successfully to its completion, how much more should one be ready and willing to do this who is working to serve the Lord.

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones has written some books that are very widely used among Christians. God greatly blessed his ministry in England. Before he became a minister, he was a heart specialist. He was a highly trained medical man. After he had been greatly used in a medical way, he came to the conclusion that after all it was far more important to reach souls for eternity than to help people live a few years longer in this life. So he prepared himself for the Christian ministry and he has had 30 years or more of effective service for the Lord. The head of Inter-Varsity told me (who was an intimate friend of Martin Lloyd Jones) how they would have meetings with theological students from all over England, and at which Martin Jones would speak and hold meetings in which they discussed various doctrines and matters. He would quiz the students and ask them, Why do you believe this? Why do you believe that? And get right down to the bottom of how much they really knew, how much they believed.

Some of the students objected. They said, That's no way to treat a man who is preparing for the ministry. Dr. Jones said, If you were preparing for medical work, you'd find that you would get this all the time. You'll find that in associations of doctors you will get it all the time too! That everything you say will be questioned and you are forced to be sure that you know what you know and understand it. But how easy it is for us to think that a little bit of truth is all we need. Or that a few degrees of a few credits will suffice.

You can go out and say, I had Hebrew; I had Greek. A man phoned me the other day. He had a problem. He asked me to talk to somebody who had a problem. He said, I told him, I've studied Greek eight years, but I wish you'd talk to Dr. MacRae! He will be able to help you with your problem. It won't do you any good to tell somebody that you studied Greek for 3 years in seminary. Can you from the Greek and from the Hebrew see what God has exactly to say in answer to that problem? Are you studying Hebrew and Greek, not just to get a credit, but in order to get a knowledge of it so that you can get the facts and you can say at a glance, This does not mean that; it does not mean that; this is what it means. Or in this case there are two possibilities.