

effective service for God? How can I truly show my love to God in what I do this summer?

It is easy after one has had a year studying Hebrew or Greek to go out ~~for~~ for the summer and engage in activities, perhaps purely secular in order to make money, perhaps in various types of Christian work but to think "my studies are finished, they are behind me until fall, and then I will start in again." Then you come back and look at the Heb. or Greek and it takes about two weeks to get back to the place where you were at the beginning of the summer. Time and again I have stressed to people "spend at least 5 min. every day reading Greek. Spend at 5 min. every day reading Heb." With that little bit of time they would not make much progress, but it would be tremendous what a difference it would make when you're slipping back!

Most students will perhaps take three hours during the summer at a stretch on one of those subjects, otherwise not open a book. But to take a few minutes and be regular at it to keep up the level we have attained. But I would say there is not one out of two to whom I have stressed this desire who has done it. If we truly love the Lord with all our heart and with all our minds will be not be able to acquire habits of study and of application to those matters that will advance our ability to serve Him effectively?

The same thing applies to homiletics, to public speaking. If you neglect it, it slips back. Then the ~~x~~ time comes when you want to speak in a class or to candidate in a church, and you have hardly spoken for some weeks or months. You have slipped back from the standard you had attained to. If you truly loved the Lord would you not show it by making sure that you get some kind of opportunity to speak publicly and to maintain -- let's hope to improve-- but at least to maintain what facility you have attained already in order that when the time comes to serve the Lord full time you will have the ability that you have spent a long time acquiring and not have allowed them to slip, slip, slip backwards. Steadiness, putting God first in the little things is tremendously important for our lives.

You may say I would stand at the stake and be burned for the sake of Christ. I could give my life for him. Maybe you could; maybe you couldn't. You cannot predict what you would be like in a great crisis that might come to you. Hopefully we will not have to show our lives in such a way, but all of us have the opportunity of developing habits that will be glorifying to God. We have the opportunity of showing our love for God by making our time count for him.

Of course this does not mean you should spend all your time singing hymns, reading Psalms and doing what you would call strictly spiritual and devotional exercises. God has made us such that our personality, our body needs variety. It is easy for a few people to slip over into a sort of fanatical extreme that cuts down on their effectiveness. It is easy to do and it is sad when a few do it. But for everyone that has the danger of that, ~~thats~~ there are 1000 that tend to slip into carelessness and forgetfulness