

knowledge in the original that you can't get from any translation.

Some years ago there was a very fine Chinese gentleman who was head of a Bible school in China who came to our seminary. He took our whole course. He was very very interested. He made the utmost use of every course in the seminary and he found it tremendously vital. I got to know him quite well. He and his wife were very friendly with our family. I got to know him well and I said to him, You know English well, you understand it well, but your pronunciation is not quite as easy to understand as it might be. Why don't you make some special effort in learning to get your pronunciation better in English so you are more readily understood and you can deal more in conversation with people?

He said, When I finish my course, and when I (he went to Dropsie) finished my course at Dropsie and I will go back to China and I will be working in China all the rest of my life. Why should I spend time bothering about pronunciation of English? I could understand him perfectly, but then I was rather used to the way he talked because I'd known him for some time and spent time together. He just brushed aside all I said on that; he was very attentive on everything else. He was very grateful for all he got in the seminary.

Then the communists took over China. He was not able to go back to China. He lived in Los Angeles and became pastor of a Chinese church there. There were about 100 people in the church and the people there spoke Cantonese Chinese. The Chinese he knew was Mandarin. They could not understand Mandarin, so he preached in English! He was pastor there for 20-25 years, and he built the church up for 100 to 2000. When the church had perhaps 80 people in it, I met an American there who didn't know a word of Chinese but he told me he always attended the church because he said this man had such an insight into the Scripture; his preaching was so tremendously useful, but it had to be in English. He eventually built the church up to about 2000. I think they are mostly Chinese now. He is in fact president in addition to pastoring this church, he is president of a Christian college in Taiwan. He travels back and forth. But he brushed aside my suggestion about working on English grammar.

We cannot tell what the Lord may use in days ahead. Somebody says, Why should I bother with Homiletics; I'm going to be a teacher. I'm going to be a counsellor dealing in direct contact with people. I'm going to teach a S.S. class. I'm never going to be a pastor. Why should I bother with Homiletics? You don't know when no matter what you do if you do it well the Lord will want you to have opportunities to speak to groups to present your ideas. Every minute you spend attending homiletics class and paying close attention to what others do in them and see how the Lord can use it in your work, will pay off great dividends no matter what area of Christian activity you go into in days to come. The material needed for an M.Div. is crammed together. We have a job getting into it what we believe is really necessary for an effective serve to the Lord. Every bit of it is vital.