

Personally I feel there is nothing more important for the Christian world than to learn not what theologians have said, but what the Bible says and to get into it and to understand it better. There is a great deal in it we have not yet gotten.

I was greatly impressed when I was a student in seminary by the fact that our philosophical questions, our problems in life ==the answers to them are to a great extent found in the NT. The NT roots back into the OT. To understand term after term in the NT you need the OT. There are many areas in life the NT does not touch on because it deals with what is most important i.e. salvation through Christ. It devotes so much space to that. Yet there are other aspects in life in which it is tremendous important that we know God's will. There are ministers who are staisfied to take any kind of a story in the Bible, any kind of a verse and twist it to get some marvellous gospel truth that h as nothing to do with the verse! With that particular verse. And there are modernists who take the Scripture and twist it.

I picked up a book once by a methodist minister that told how to become a bishop without being religious! Really a blasphemous sort of book, and I understand he was pastor of a big church. I don't know whether he ever became a bishop ornot. I've heard nothing about him since. I opened the book more or less at random. He said, You want to be sure frequently in yourx sermons to say, The Bible says. If you say that people will be happy and you can go on and say anything you want, just so you introduce it with the words, The Bible says.

I believe that shows that our people as a whole havea veneration for the Bible. But I believe we need to educate them to not just take our word but really show what the Bible says. Not to simply look to the Bible for proof-texts of what we already know and words that suggest it, but to get into that text and see what is there. The great truths we believe in are strongly and truly given but there is much else we need to learn.

That to my mind is our primary purpose here at the seminary. Is to train those who can go into the Bible for themselves and see what is in it. Some years ago before this seminary was founded but where we were teaching with the same emphasis and objectives we have here, there were two fellows who graduated and went to the middle west to an institution that has a seminary that gives a doctor's degree in theology. I went out to speak at a place there and these two men came to see me. They said, You can't imagine what an advantage wehave over the other students that have graduated from this other seminary and are working for their doctor's ddegree. Because they said, We have learned to go to the Bible, examine its words,examine its elements in context and see what it really says. Whereas these fellows, you give them a passage or a problem and they look up what does this commentator say, what does that one say, etc., and they see which has the ~~more~~ more people on this side and which has more on that. But to get really into it and see what it says they are not trained! I believe that is one of the great x troubles with the Protestant church today. Too often they are using