

(Dr. Taylor's announcement re candidate status with Middle States Accreditation)

Just before the examinations begin it seems to me it would be quite an appropriate time to preach on Paul's statement in 2 Cor. 13:5, "Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith."

When I was a senior in college I almost got lynched! I was editor of the college paper. It was customary then at that time that seniors in their last semester did not have to take examinations. I looked over the papers of previous years and I found it was customary for the editor to write an editorial at time of exams saying that examinations were a residue from the dark ages, that they were bad, there was no good in them and it was much better to do away with them.

I did not happen to agree with that. So I pointed out that the value of examinations. I pointed out some very important values of them. I may have gotten a little carried away with myself because I said in my editorial that seniors are supposed to have privileges. Why should they be denied the privilege that comes from an examination?

You might say that examinations are a necessary evil. But I believe that examinations add tremendously to the value of the course. For one thing they show us how we are doing ourselves. Examinations of all kinds have their place. It good to have a physical examination occasionally. You can have something gradually going wrong with you. If you catch on to it and remedy it, it can be very helpful.

You can have something in your manner of taking notes; in your general understanding of a particular subject; something that has led you to have a misunderstanding all through the semester, and examinations call that to your attention and let you know really just how you are doing.

I think one of the greatest values of examinations is that the exam forces you to review the material of the course. I have often found when I have taken a course, I have gone through it step by step. I've seen how I went from this step to that and from that to the next, and I've gotten just a partial view of each step. I've not really seen how it all fit together. I've found also I have tended to forget the earlier part of the semester's work. But when the examination came, I had an impetus to review the whole thing and go through it from beginning to end. I have found it gave me one view of it altogether. It greatly strengthened my recollection of it.

I believe I have derived about double the value from every course that I've ever taken if I've had an examination at the end. I've occasionally taken courses that had no examination, and it has generally been my feeling when I finished the course, Oh I want to review all these notes; I want to get things all together. ~~AM~~