

But I'm pretty busy right now. I have other courses that need examinations and I'm going off to do this and that. I'll do it next month! Alas the next month never came! in a great many cases.

I personally have taken many many courses which I've almost completely forgotten today. I look back on those courses and I have the feeling that if I could have had the stimulus of an examination another one, a year later, to go over that material again and review it and get it in mind, that I would today have a great deal of knowledge that I do not have, a great deal of understanding I do not have. I wish there was some way I could find to give that impetus to everyone. I wish I had had the personal discipline to do that myself in all my courses but I'm afraid I have not.

If I had to write a revised educational procedure I believe I would make that a definite rule: that a person would take an exam when he finished the course, and not get credit for the course until he had taken another exam a year later. (Laughter) Because I believe the value would be increased for everybody by having those two reviews.

But then, in addition to the value of the examination in causing you to go over it and put it into your mind in that way, I think a very great value is that it gives you an oversight of the subject. It gives you a seeing of it all together. It gives you a better understanding of all parts of it as you see them together rather than piecemeal as you have had them through the semester.

So there are these three I think very great values of examinations. But then that was not what Paul was specifically speaking of here. I will get to what his primary stress was before we are through this morning. But there is another aspect I think is important. I have spoken about the first word thus far of this statement: examine yourselves. . .

Now we'll go on to the second part of the statement: Examine yourselves. I believe that is something that could be of tremendous value to everyone of us. To examine ourselves. I think that just as examinations start is a very good time to look back over the semester's work and to see, What should I have done differently? How could I have done it better? How could I be in a better position today than otherwise? Examine yourself. Socrates said: The unexamined life is not worth living.

I was reading a book by a professor of philosophy who repeated that over and over and thought that was tremendously important. Personally I think it is a bit exaggerated. Yet I think it has a very real truth: the unexamined life. I believe that if our lives are going to accomplish for the Lord what they should, we are == if we are to succeed in our service to Him in making our lives be what they should be, in many aspects of life, I believe it is tremendously important that we examine ourselves and keep examining ourselves.