

There are many things you could say as to why the Bible is important to the Christian. I suggest that in general these be put under three heads: First it is important because we get from it its great central teaching--the greatness of God, His power, His majesty, the fact that man is a lost sinner deserving nothing good at God's hands, the fact that Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity and He came to earth to die that we might live, the fact that we can be saved through faith in Him. These are matters so plain in Scripture that anybody should be able to find them there. Those wonderful vv. that bring those truths home to us and help us to understand them are surely as important as anything in Scripture.

But Scripture was not written simply to give us information. Scripture has as a vital part of its purpose that of impact. That ~~is~~ is to say it takes the vital truths God wants us to have and drives them home to our hearts. It does not simply give us a manual that you can read and try to figure out its information. There is an element of that, but it gives it including some of the greatest literature that ever was written, it gives it in a form that can drive its great truths into your heart. So the importance of the Bible for its impact upon us of these great truths is very important.

But there is also a third very important reason for the Scripture. That is, as the Psalmist said, to be a light to our feet and a light to our path. The Scripture gives beyond that the information God wants his people to have at every stage of life and at every period. Situations change. As I think of the situation when I was a ~~xxxx~~ boy, and I think so often when I'm planning a discussion on some point of an illustration from ordinary life that will seem to drive the point home. Then I will notice that some of its factors are not even known much by people today.

I gave an illustration in making a rough draft of this talk of a person making a trip to Europe. How did he go? Did he take a steamer or did he fly? My secretary wrote at the bottom: I didn't know steamers went to Europe any more! So something that would have been a wonderful illustration just a few years ago--the difference between steamer travel and travel to Europe by plane-- today means little to most people because they don't use that any more. Life changes in its externalities. Many things change, but God's Word fits all periods. God has the truth there we need, but oh how often we're satisfied with just what other people say, what they got from Scripture, but more often what they have gotten from somebody else who has gotten it from somebody else who said he got it from Scripture instead of going right to God's Word and finding there the truth that God has for us to fit the particular situation in which we find ourselves.

So one of our principal purposes in founding this seminary was to have an institution that would emphasize getting right into Scripture, learning to interpret it and take the words as they stand in the original languages and see exactly what they mean and what the possibilities are, and thus to get the truth