

With unveiled faces to contemplate the Lord's glory to reflect His glory and to be transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory.

Now why could you not do this just as well when engaged in purely secular labor? Why could you not do it just as well when studying psychology or botony or something else? Why do you have to come to seminary? What does that have to do with your sanctification?

We look back to the passage in John and we find he said, "Sanctify them by the truth, your Word is truth." There are Mohammedans; there are people of many different religions who try to meditate on some ineffable vision that they have or some idea that they have, and it may have some beneficial effect on their lives or it may not. But that is not what the Lord wants. The Lord wants us to meditate on Him. He wants us to be sanctified in accordance with His will and He says that the primary instrument for that is His truth. "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

God gave us these 66 books for us to study and meditate upon and learn what they mean. Many verses you look at the meaning seems perfectly obvious. Many other verses you look at you may not quite understand what it means. You may have to study it at length to find out. But all of it is part of His instrument for your sanctification.

Last year shortly before the end of the year, at the end of the chapel a man who was about to graduate came up to me and spoke to me in a way that greatly disappointed me. He said, I said, I would like to suggest some improvements in the seminary program. He showed me how we could drop a lot of our courses and substitute Systematic Theology so that we could have hours and hours of Systematic Theology, and get rid of most everything else. I felt as he finished talking (I did not say so to him) but I felt that the whole central emphasis had been wasted as far as he was concerned.

What is Systematic Theology? Well there are a few aspects -- There are two aspects from which it can be exempt(?) One of them is the gathering together of that which is clearly taught in Scripture verses in order to see what summation we can find regarding various subjects. This, of course, is tremendously important. But the vital thing is, Are we interpreting each of these verses correctly? Or are we simply taking a superficial interpretation from it?

When I was a student in seminary I remember when an important doctrine which I thoroughly accepted and believed was being discussed in the course in Systematic Theology. The professor quoted a certain half of a verse, and he quoted this verse as if that proved the thing. While I believed the thing he was trying to prove, I pointed out to him, Yes, but it says, in