

of musar." Prov. 6:23 says "the reproofs of musar are the way of life." Ch. 12:1 says "whosoever loves musar loves knowledge." Ch. 23:12 says apply your heart unto musar. You can certainly see from that that the word certainly is not specifically punishment, and it is much broader than simply chastening or chastisement. The word indicates the activity that one performs in order to accomplish a purpose. It represents that for which one is willing to suffer. That for which one is willing to pour out his effort in order to accomplish a worthy purpose.

We are exhorted to take hold of musar, to apply our hearts to musar. We are exhorted to see the example of our Lord Jesus Christ of what he was willing to go through for us, what he did in order to bring us the wonderful blessings of the Christian life.

I think this is a very important thing for us to stress as the seminary year begins. You come here and it certainly is not in coming to a school certainly not our schools that knowledge is simply poured into you like being poured into a bottle. Then you take it in and take an exam to see how much you have, and then you let it evaporate perhaps in subsequent times.

That is not the sort of training you need if your life is to accomplish for Christ. You need to apply your heart to musar, you need to take hold of musar! It is not simply what we can give to you, but what you get, what you acquire, what you learn, what you accomplish that will make the difference. We are here to guide you. We are here to give advice. We are here to make suggestions. We are not here simply to give you a lot of notes that you can take and look at later on when you want to know what we think about a particular matter.

Musar. Hard work and effort in order that you may acquire self-discipline, that you may learn to make your life accomplish what it really should accomplish is what is necessary if you are to effectively serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

I remember a student whom I had some years ago--w many years ago. His name was Francis Schaeffer. After he graduated from seminary he took a little church with about 18 members when he took it. After a year and a half he had built up the church to where it had about 120 members. I talked with him about it. I said, When did you ever get time doing all that work to get people interested in coming to the church. When did you get time to work on your sermons? On the delivery of sermons? Well, he said, during his last two years he said practically every week I have worked out most of my sermon on Monday. Then every day after that, every morning, I have gone into the church and I have preached the morning and evening sermons in the empty church.

Then he said on Sunday a.m. I have gone in there early and I preached the evening sermon and then the morning sermon, and then on Sunday afternoon I went in again and preached the evening sermon. Now he did not have to keep that up all his life. But during that crucial time when he was getting established, he put in the time and effort to really develop himself as a preacher, to really develop his ability to get his thoughts