

"It doesn't get me at all! It sounds like the other people but it doesn't sound a bit like me!" None of us hear ourselves speak. None of us see ourselves speak. Today unfortunately (or fortunately) we have reached the point where we have machines where you can see yourself and hear yourself and get some idea. I wish they had had them when I was in seminary. But it can be a tremendous help if you will work at it.

But if you just go through it, pass through it, it will do you very little good. You go to a class and you hear a professor talking about some theological point, some linguistic point, etc. and you listen to it and you say, Let's get the notes on this so we can write an examination. No! Don't make your interest the examination. Make your interest this thing may be of tremendous importance to me in my life and work sometime in the future. Try to think it through. Is it really right what he said? Is there some flaw in it? Do I need more evidence on it? Utilize the opportunity and how grateful you will be in years to come that you got not just some marks, not just some credits, but that you got something that you can really use.

You never know when the time may come when the particular thing you had here in the seminary may be of tremendous importance in your life and in your work. God's work needs everything we can put into it. God has left a comparatively small number of people in the world that truly want to serve Him. The needs and the opportunities are positively endless today but who knows when it all may come to an end! Who knows when we may be like the people in the communist world who are forbidden to speak about Christ. Who knows when our freedom will end? It's not as unlikely as it might seem. But now we have opportunities and we have an opportunity to train to accomplish the most for Christ.

Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. Examine yourself whether you are growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ as you should. Examine yourself whether you are truly learning to utilize everything that is available to you here and improving in many many ways in order that your life may truly accomplish the utmost for Christ in days to come. Let us pray.

O God our Father, we do not know what lies ahead. We don't know what opportunities there are for each of us. We don't know what difficulties there will be before us. But Oh we know that the answer to all of our problems is in your Word. Help us we pray to learn to understand that Word in the original. Help us to see exactly what it means and to apply it to our lives. Help us, we pray, to be truly effective servants of yours. We ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.