

attitude toward them.

~~When~~ Toward the end of his life, when a man who had been his warm friend and later became his bitter enemy cast up to him this inconsistency that he was now teaching the classic authors. And he had spoken so strongly against them and pagan literature. Jerome tried to defend himself. He said he couldn't obliterate from his memory what he had formerly read, as if ~~there~~ it wasn't just as bad to read it as to ~~quote~~ quote it. And then he said, well, the Scripture says that if an Israelite takes a ~~heathen~~ heathen woman captive, after she has cleansed herself, that he may marry her. And these classical learnings, thus, could be used. Well, of course, I fear that today men in Christian schools who are doing that way with pagan learning. They are taking it and baptizing it a little bit and then presenting it as Christian learning.

But I don't think that is what Jerome really did. I think actually he is in his works on the Bible and on commentaries, ~~where~~ Schaff says he affords the best evidence in what he did of the inestimable value of the linguistic and antiquarian knowledge. When devoted to the service of religion.

After his ~~baptism~~ baptism, Jerome divided his life between the east and the west. Between ascetic discipline and literary labor. He went to the east and with a ~~few~~ few friends he visited celebrated hermits and different places, he ~~had~~ attended exegetical lectures in Antioch with some of the great Christian scholars there. And then he went out into the dreary Syrian desert and he spent some years there as an ascetic, living very very simply apart from every worldly thing, as far as he could, and devoting himself to careful study. As he describes it later, he says, like many other hermits he underwent a grievous struggle with sensuality there. In spite of his starved and emaciated body his fancy tormented him with wild images of Roman ~~banquets~~ banquets and dances and women. Helpless he cast himself at the feet of Jesus, wet them with tears of ~~repentance~~ repentance and subdued the resisting ~~right~~ by a week of fasting and by the dry study of Hebrew grammar.
(laughter)