

One of the matters that is of great importance here in the Seminary is that we instill in the students the principle of careful and accurate exegesis. We are anxious that they draw from the Scripture that which is clearly taught there and we are equally anxious that they do not read into a verse of Scripture something that is not in it. In the popular ministry there is a great tendency to take doctrines clearly taught in the Scripture and then press them upon the hearts and minds of people in any way possible. It is easy under such circumstances to take one or two verses of the Scripture and using them as a starting point to present great amounts of Scripture teaching which are not specifically contained in these verses. So long as the Scripture teaching is found in other verses of the Scripture one would hardly say that great harm would come from such an attitude. However, there is great danger of bringing disrepute upon the Word of God by bring verses forward as proof of something when that particular doctrine is not taught in those particular verses. Then if this is later recognized to be a fact it detracts greatly from the influence of the one who has used that type of argument. Therefore, there is real value in attempting to be extremely careful in using verses only for that which these verses clearly teach.

One of the most important things which the faculty of the Seminary can do is to examine carefully all the positions for which we stand and to find exactly what evidence is available for them. It is vital that we know exactly what is based upon Scripture and what is based not upon Scripture itself but upon valid or even upon some one questionable inference from the Scripture. By throwing aside the weak and questionable arguments and placing our stress upon those which are strong and unanswerable, we put ourselves in a much better position to defend the Truth than if we go out with questionable arguments.

Another question that is worthy of consideration is that of seeking to know what the position of the church has been at different times as a means of ascertaining what the Christian position is on a subject. On many a doctrine it has been a vital matter for the Church to examine the Scripture teaching carefully and thoroughly and in the Providence of God leaders of the church have produced very clear and strong statements in connection with these documents. Thus, the church has a great treasure in the creeds which have been produced in the stress and strain of theological controversy. It is