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SPECIAL HOUR - October 1, 1953

Speaker: Dr. MacRae

"Covet earnestly the best gifts". I am sure that each of you does or you would not be here. You could receive a degree more easily elsewhere than you can receive it here. But you have come here not simply because you want a degree but because you want a training, because you want to serve the Lord effectively. You want to learn to develop the talents you have and the abilities that God has given you, in such a way as you can use them for His service. And I think that it is very important at the beginning of our year that we notice what the Apostle Paul says about these gifts. They are important. We should covet them earnestly. We should strive for them. We should seek to attain them. Yet he said there is something even more important than that. He said yet "showing you a more excellent way", not a substitute way, nothing that takes the place of the other, nothing that is more important. Something which, if we have it, we will strive to get the other. If we have it, it will make the other worthwhile and if we don't have it, the other is then worth nothing.

Now as I read this chapter from the King James Version, you notice that I did not read the letters that are written there. I did not say charity, but I said love. I went back to the Geneva version, the version which was the version of the Bible of the English-speaking world prior to 1612. In fact, almost to 1614 probably, which always translated the Latin word - the Greek word - agape or the verb agapao by the English word, love. Now the old Bishop's Bible used the Latin expression as much as it could - the Latin word caritas simply took over into English as charity. And when King James asked them to make the Bishop's Bible into - to make the King James Version, he gave certain rules and one rule was the Bishop's Bible is the foundation. Don't depart from the Bishop's Bible unless there is good reason and he said of all the versions the worst of them is the Geneva Bible. So now the translators did not agree with him. They thought the Geneva Bible was about the