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...at Faith Seminary we stand for the whole Bible. That is one of our basic convictions. We must compare Scripture with Scripture. We must study each verse in context. We must see what each passage means. Otherwise--people have sometimes said you can prove anything by the Bible, that is true if you take a verse out of context, but if you interpret it in context and see how the whole fits together, it is our claim that it makes a consistent presentation of God's will for us. My first question this morning then is: are you a Mark Christian? Do you build your teaching on a certain entirely upon the Gospel of Mark? In order to examine this question, we will look briefly at what Mark has to say about this point. We read from Mark 9:38-40.

"And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part."

Yet we should be very careful about building upon one verse alone. There are many people in the Christian church today who act as if this verse were more important than everything else in the Bible. I remember nearly 20 years ago, speaking in the chapel of a Christian college. There I pointed out the rapid spread of modernism, the great number of churches that no longer were preaching the gospel but were giving another message altogether. After I finished, one of the professors spoke to me. He said that statistics showed that during the previous five years there had been a great increase in church <sup>membership.</sup> ~~attendance.~~ He said, personally, I feel that to belong to any church is -- ~~OK~~ any Christian church--is far better for people to belong to any Christian church than for them not to belong to it at all.

Personally, I do not see how I can agree with him in that. If one belongs to a church where the gospel is proclaimed, and where people are taught from the word of God how to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, they are on their way to