

what God wants us to do. That's looking at the appearance. God wants us to say, what does God's Word say? He wants us to look at the Word and examine exactly what is there. That's why we feel here that while it is good to learn methods, ways of presenting the truth, ways of dealing with people, we feel that more important than anything else is that you learn to understand the Word of God in the original so that when new problems come up you can go to the Bible, you can see exactly what it says and what it means: Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment -- judge according to the reality of what God wants you to believe. Man judges you by the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. O may God enable us each one to bring our hearts in line with God's purposes. May God enable us to learn that in dealing with others to judge them by their hearts, by their attitude, by their loyalty to God, by the real ability they may have or may lack, rather than by the external features.

But now let's look at this vs. again. I think we're apt to neglect the real meaning of the first part when we are looking at the second. The second is what is all important: that God looks at the heart. But God wants us also to realize the fact that man does judge by the outward appearance. That's what man looks at. I've known fellows who had a wonderful knowledge of God's truth, who were able to present the Word of God in a very excellent way but who did not bother to dress in line with the standards of the community in which they were endeavoring to serve the Lord. And ~~as~~ I've known people to lose the opportunity to present God's word because people didn't like the way they dressed. You can't just change your habits in this regard in a minute. It's good to look forward to the future and say, I want to be such that God will look at my heart and know it's right, that I'm truly putting Him first. But I also wish in order to serve Him effectively to be such that when look at the outward appearance, men will look at that and will not find it a detriment that will keep them from listening to the message that I have. Fifty yrs. ago it was customary that everyone should take a bath every Saturday night. The Sat. night bath was a common regular habit in America. Up where I lived in N. Mich. we used to hear it said that there were some people there who used to sew their children's clothes on in the fall and not take them off until the spring. I'm not sure whether that was true or not, but we used to hear that about them -- some of them, and I used to get that impression when I was near them, but today it is customary in America that most people should