

To really know someone, you have to talk with them, hear them talk. God has revealed Himself in His Word. So I separate that out as a second great objective today -- to know God's Word. It is tightly united with the first, and yet, I believe so very important that I believe it is worthwhile to mention it as a second great objective.

Why mention this as an objective? Why bother with this? This is what we are here in seminary for - to learn God's Word, yes. But that can become a secondary thing and your primary effort is to pass courses. Your primary effort should be to learn the Word of God, to learn to know it, and to make it a part of yourself! The courses are a means to help you to learn to know God's Word. Now you can't know all of God's Word in three or four short years here at seminary. You can get into the Word; you can learn something about it. But even that, if your primary effort is to learn a few facts that you can write on a paper and turn in to get a mark, you don't really learn a great deal of learning to know God's Word.

I believe the Lord wants us to hold this up as a second objective before our eyes, to learn to know the Word of God. There are two ways of studying the Word. One way is extension; the other is intension. They are both important, both necessary. You can't make it half way between them and be satisfied. That is to say, you must read long portions of the Word. You must get to know it in its large sections! to get the feeling of great sections of the Word. It is good to read the whole Bible through frequently. You get the feeling of it in a way that you don't by taking little isolated passages and studying them. But if you just learn it extensively you can miss a tremendous part and you can miss understanding a great deal. If you just study intensively you learn to know a few sections, and you miss a great deal because you don't know so much else that is ~~related~~ related to that. You can't study the whole Word intensively in a whole lifetime, and even if you did it wouldn't be effective unless along with it you were reading extensively.

We need to learn to know the Word as a whole. We need to learn the message of the book of Nahum, the message of the book of Habakkuk, the important teachings of 2 Samuel, the vital principles that you find in the book of Jude. We need to learn all sections of the Word of God. To learn to know the Word of God is one of the great objectives of == for the Christian and I would commend it to you as a great objective for this semester.

In Ps. 119:11, the Psalmist says, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." In Ps. 1 the he says of the blessed man that he delights in the law of the Lord and in his law does he meditate day and night. To really know the Word of God you don't simply learn facts about it. To learn to know it you make it a part of your being. It is as if -- I should not say as if, because it really is God speaking to you through the Word giving you these tremendous things to think on and through it you come really to know Him. Make the Word really a part of you.

I heard about a fine orthodox seminary not long ago, that a minister of a large church got a man from it, and he said after the experience of a year, This man can take a doctrine and he can build it up; he can show