

Now this is not the end of the semester. This is the beginning of the semester. But I think this is very important: Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith." Test yourselves. It is very easy for us to slip. It is easy for us to change. To gradually ~~more~~ ^{move} in one direction or another. If we wait till the the end of the semester to take the examination to find out where we are, sometimes we are greatly surprised and greatly disappointed. I believe it is vital that we examine ourselves constantly. That we test ourselves constantly. That we see where we are and what we are doing. So I commend this to you at the beginning of the semester that you examine yourselves constantly, see where you are going. See how you are moving, what you are achieving.

Many think of an educational institution like a food dispensing machine that you put in a quarter and out comes the thing that you want. They pay their tuition, attend their classes a certain amount, get a degree. Degrees are greatly overrated in our society. They have become tremendously important, far more important I think than they actually are. But I believe it is important that we realize that the important thing is that it is not the degree you get, it is not the number of credits. The important thing is what have you derived, what have you derived from the course. What value are you getting.

We have planned the course carefully. We believe everything in it is of real value. I remember one time early in my career as an educator when I talked to one of the students urging him to try to get some experience teaching a S.S. class, and learning something about how to run a S.S. He said, I am a scholar; I don't see why I need to bother about that sort of thing. My ministry is different. A different aspect of Christian work than that. He could see no point