

decide for us what we are to do. Teaching is not a rare gift but it is not an extremely common gift.

I believe almost anybody can do a good work in the pastorate if he's willing to work hard at it and willing to listen to criticism and to profit by it. Because there are so many aspects to the pastorate. One can do excellent work in this and a fair job in that. Another can do excellent work in that and a fair job in this.

I think anyone can learn to speak in an effective way and -- if he is willing to work at it and willing to listen to other people's suggestions instead of feeling he has to defend himself all the time, and prove that they are wrong. I believe therefore that anyone who has brains enough to get through a seminary course can do a credible job in a pastorate so much better than == some much better than others.

When it comes to teaching, I believe that the ability to teach is somewhat rare. Not extremely rare but I have known people who have not seemed particularly good at teaching for the first couple of months. Then they have hit their stride. Then they have been excellent at it. I've known others who have taken hold and seem to be going forward and you say, My how fortunate we ~~were~~ were to get such a man on our teaching staff. Six months later everyone realized that he did not have that gift, and the course he taught was a failure. One takes longer to learn than the other.

I've known several men who have gone and gotten a Ph.D. in order to become a teacher, putting years of study and then have gotten a position in a school, and after a little they are told they are not to be continued there. They have gone somewhere else and tried ~~xxxxxx~~ further places and have ended up doing altogether different types of work.

I do not urge people to go into teaching therefore. In most cases I recommend to a student who does not know whether to go into the pastorate or into teaching, I recommend he try to get a pastorate in a town where there is a Christian college or a Bible school in the area. If he does that and is working in a church, and does a creditable work sometime before too long he's going to have a chance to teach a course in the school. If he does that in two or three months he can find out whether he has the gift of teaching or not.

Most people I think are foolish to spend their money and time for advanced degrees to become teachers unless they have learned that they have that skill. Any skill you have can be used in the Lord's work. The important thing is that we put Christ first in all things.

There are more things that we ought to look at on other phases of this, but we'll look at that at another chapel period. But for this moment I want to stress that each of us has a call to preach Christ in the sense that we are called to make Him known.