

study them through yourself and ~~do~~collateral reading. If you're not simply trying to get credit in this course but to get an understanding of this matter, you will find you will get double value from your course and you will find 30 years from now you probably will have accomplished far more in your life than if you had not.

This is a very hard idea to present in America. We in America are in one way unfortunate. We go to school and they say, Here's the thing to get for tomorrow. We get that, and here's the thing to get for the next day. Everything is spoon-fed for us. We are given little chunks of material to get through and we pass this course and that course and etc. Dr. Machen used to lament: I have had some of my finest students who showed real insight and did marvelous work in some of my classes who have graduated and gone out and have never heard of them again. There was no incentive there. Do this for tomorrow.

There was a sermon necessary for next Sunday. Well next Saturday let's work all day and gather together something to give. But if you are studying the Scripture to know what God wants you to understand, if you are studying the Scripture to know His purposes for you, the question is not what can I preach? The question is, Which will be most helpful to these people? You will not be getting it ready on Sunday, but you will be planning many sermons ahead, and several days ahead you will be working out details of the sermon for the coming Sunday.

You don't know what the Lord has ahead for you. No one of us does. We had a very fine student a number of years ago. A man who had been the head of a theological seminary in China. He had had to leave China at the time of the revolution. He and his wife were very fine friends of my wife and myself.