

So we here are a bit unique in our emphases. One of our great emphases is on the languages of Scripture. We put great stress on learning Greek and Hebrew thoroughly. You cannot do that without a lot of hard work, and the time to do that work is at the beginning.

I used to teach beginning Hebrew. Taught it for many years. I found that a person can seem to ~~have~~ have the material in the first semester in fairly decent shape, but not have worked on it hard enough to make it part of himself. It's merely something he knows well enough to write on a paper. That's the trouble with our whole American system today. We learn a thing. We write it on the exam and it's done. We forget. Well, our material is not given so you can forget! But you will forget if you don't take time to really get it.

I used to find that people could get the first semester in such shape that they could write a satisfactory examination. But the second semester was quite beyond them because they did not have a solid foundation. So I always insisted that if a person failed the second semester that he take the whole year over. Because if he took the second semester over two or three times and still not get it. It's that first semester that has the ground work. So I urge you in your Greek and Hebrew to learn it solidly at the start. Now there are some people who cannot learn Greek and Hebrew, who see the great value of it and would love to learn it. There are others who can learn it in the course of a long time of hard work. But under the exigencies of our present educational system, if you are going to graduate in 3 years you'll have to learn both Heb. and Greek in the first year.

Now many in this class have already had Greek and some have already had Hebrew. We rejoice in the head start that you've got. And I hope you remember it. I rejoice in that head start. But for those of you who have had no Greek, let me say this. There are two possibilities. I remember one fellow who came and he== the faculty looked over his college work, his credits, and he'd been in business for some years, and they said, Oh my, he can't learn Greek and Hebrew in one year. They said, You must spread it over 4 yrs.

So he started out on a four year basis, but he was a man of unusual ability, and in addition to that very well organized and a hard worker. Very soon he started Greek, but he started studying Hebrew himself. Pretty soon he found he was doing the Greek well and also getting along well enough in the Hebrew well enough that he was allowed to join the class and do the work in three years.

That's ~~xxx~~ a rare case. It would have been too bad if he'd had to take ~~ix~~ it in four years. But now we're apt to get the opposite. We're very apt to get a man who was a good record in college, who is perhaps has shown himself excellent in physical training, excellent in some form of mechanics, perhaps even in philosophy but who does not have a great deal of language work. And he starts Greek and Hebrew and he tries to get them both, and the result is he doesn't get either ~~xxx~~ one of them. So I would like if you have never had Greek, I would like either to take the course