

thinking of ourselves as a vocational school. We are not simply training people for the pastorate. I believe we are giving the ideal training for the pastorate. But that is not our purpose primarily. Our purpose is to give the servant of God that ability to understand what the Word of God says and to dig into it for himself. To help him with the ability to present it in a clear way so that it will reach the minds and hearts of the people.

If then God calls one to give his full time to the pastorate we rejoice because surely nothing deserves God's favor better. than spending all one's time in reaching individuals who need to know Christ, who need to know how to grow in grace. But if it is God's will that a few should go on and receive additional training in order to be teachers in theological institutions. Now there is tremendous need for teachers in Christian schools and I rejoice when individuals with a theological training go and give themselves and their time in serving God in Christian high schools or in Christian elementary schools.

But when it comes to being a teacher in a theological seminary, there are comparatively few such openings, and in most cases the heads of the institution have very definite ideas as to what they want their teachers to believe on a great many points. The result is that the number of places where one can receive such a position is comparatively small. I've had student after student through the years come to me in his last year, I think when I finish I should go on and work for a Ph.D. in order to become a teacher of theology. Do you think I would be wise to do so? Usually they have been people who have been doing good work. academically.

But I have had to say in each case, Teaching is an art which while it is not rare is somewhat less common than the ability to preach. I believe that anyone who will work through our homiletics courses and who will read through books on various aspects of Christian work--which if he can interpret the Bible he certainly ought to be able to read without having to go to class and have somebody tell him, Take these 4 pages today, take these four tomorrow. Or someone simply recite them when he could just as well get them from the book.

I believe that most people can do effective work for Christ in the pastorate meeting with people to present God's Word. But teaching while not rare is sufficiently less common that the number who can do it effectively is quite a bit smaller. I have known of a number of cases of men who have taken 3 or 4 years to get a doctor's degree and then have ended up as pastors in small churches. I think they enjoyed the work they got, the training they got, and I think that what they give may perhaps perhaps be better than it would have been without that additional training.

But was it sufficient to be worth those years taken out from direct service in winning souls to Christ and in teaching individuals how to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.