

Someone has said, Crossing the ocean never made one a missionary. Being ordained never makes one an effective preacher of the Word. God has called upon each of us to serve Him whether we are full-time Christian workers or whether we earn our living in other ways. He calls us to make our primary purpose of our life to serve Him.

Sometimes one is tempted to become disappointed when out of our student body there are individuals who do not seem to be effective as preachers, who do not seem to find places in full-time Christian service, and they enter into secular pursuits as a means of earning their living. Some of those in secular pursuits actually do more Christian work, accomplish more for the Lord than many who are in so-called full time Christian service.

I feel that any Christian would profit by the training we seek to give in learning to understand the Word of God and interpreting it in the original. And that even if a man was in secular work the rest of his life, if he was devoting the amount of time presenting the Word of God to those with whom he comes in contact, and to teaching his family to understand the Word of God, and being an influence as a Christian layman, I feel that the full course here would be very much worthwhile in such a case.

In fact I've known graduates who I feel have accomplished more than some of our graduates who have been in full time Christian service, in their accomplishments for the Lord.

God wants us to learn to be ourselves the kind of soil that he wants us to be. Jeremiah said, Break up your fallow ground. How easy it is for us to become hardened to God's truth. How easy it is for us to let the thorns grow. How easy it is for us to become unaware and let Satan pluck away the seed.

I believe that most important is the way we sow in our own hearts and in our own lives, but I believe it is a tremendous help to us in keeping us from becoming discouraged to realize that even if we speak to 20 people, and 18 of them seem to have no effect whatever, the other two may bring forth 100 fold and accomplish in ways we never dreamed of. May God enable us to understand His Word and to apply it to our hearts, not to be simply hearers of the Word but doers. May He enable us to fight against the efforts of Satan to take away this                     . To break up our fallow ground so that it will abundantly yield and so that we will not become all enthused and then lose our enthusiasm but that we will carry on steadily and bring forth