

Oh how clever are the wiles of Satan as he tries to divert our attention away from the thing that will really bring results. Yes, you have to get certain credits. You have to get what is needed for the degree. But in the end what matters is not simply that you got the degree but what you got while you were getting the degree. A professor makes an assignment. You memorize what he says, or what is in the book that is assigned. This has a certain value. But if you will think the thing through, the value will be tremendously increased. You go to class simply to what the professor says, or do you go to increase your knowledge of the matter. If you have thought it through in advance between classes, carefully, you will find yourself able to raise interesting questions. You will think of important problems. These may be answered in class, and they can pass right over your head if you have not thought them through before so as to be aware of their importance. But if you are aware of them, you can see whether the explanations given are really clear or not. If you have really prepared you can ~~make ways of~~ asking intelligent questions *and*. You can enter into ~~intelligent~~ *worth-while* discussions.

I heard a man who had become very effective in Christian work and had a wide ministry tell of his time in seminary. He said that every evening he and another student ~~who was of equal intelligence~~ would take the matters discussed in the classes that day and they would on every problem on which there might be differing opinions one would take one view and the other the other view, and they would discuss back and forth and do their best to get a thorough understanding. Then they would change side in their discussion, ~~and~~ *End now* take the opposite side to what ~~they~~ *he* had before and ~~discuss that~~ *discuss* ~~for a while~~ *way*. He said they spent ~~to 5~~ *several* hours on this ~~every day~~ *now*, and ~~you can see~~ *never* and the results ~~became~~ *became* apparent in the ~~wide~~ great effectiveness of his work in later ~~times~~ *years*. In relation to your work, ~~if~~ *if* the years in seminary are ~~simply a period~~ *if they are* simply a period of getting by they will not accomplish much for you. When a student who has great difficulty in mastering subjects drags his feet and wastes his time and barely gets through the courses, perhaps getting some good notes but little really in his mind, I feel very disappointed.