

Rev. Theodore Noe

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prepared and garnished for the ministry by the Holy Spirit", and then proceed to say that in order to be sure of this we must ascertain five specific matters, all of which are intellectual in nature. Neither among the five qualifications nor in the succeeding paragraphs is there any reference to spiritual qualifications. Surely we must be men of prayer and spiritual power if God is able to use us at all. If a man does not have in his heart the love of Christ and a desire to serve Him to the very utmost, all the scholarship in the world would be absolutely worthless. What can be more important than to inquire into the extent of a man's consecration and sincere desire to follow the Lord, the nature of his personal devotional life and experience in leading souls to Christ, and the reality of the blessing that God has already given through his witnessing and his preaching. Your statement could easily lead to the impression that these matters were not important. I know that this would be a false impression, and that it is not your idea at all, and yet the fact that the letter was sent out in mimeographed form leads one to fear that it might fall into the hands of those who would get a wrong idea of the attitude of our Bible Presbyterian Church. It is even more necessary that we examine these things than the intellectual qualification that you have described. I know that you fully agree with this, and yet the omission of it from the letter could easily give a different impression.

It is particularly important to mention these matters in this case because Mr. Freeland is a man with unusual depth of consecration and desire to serve Christ wherever He leads. During the past year he has been devoting himself sacrificially to work among a portion of the population which our Bible Presbyterian Church must not neglect, even though most of our members do not belong to it. He has been dealing with people in slums districts and in the poorer families, and has been in contact with all sorts of difficult human problems. He has been leading children out of broken homes to the Lord and helping families that were in great difficulty. He has been working at engineering for his support, while performing this difficult and important task. Sometimes he has been tempted to feel that our church is not interested in this sort of work. God forbid that we should ever take such an attitude! God loves these people and it is His will that many of them should come to the knowledge of salvation and be born again through Christ. Mr. Freeland has a great love for souls, and a passion for the work of Christ. He is also as devoted to the great essential principles of the Bible Presbyterian Church as any man who has ever graduated from the Seminary. I believe that our church honors itself in receiving him into its ministry.

This of course would not be an argument for ordaining him if his scholarship were badly deficient. It is, however, something that is in a way even more important than scholarship and in his case say with confidence that there is no deficiency in scholarship. He says he is not a scholar and I would not say that he is one of our top students. Yet he is well within the top third, and if his scholarship were insufficient for ordination in our church I fear that two-thirds of those who are now ministers would have to drop out. *Jan*

After mentioning my disappointment at the fact that a letter of this type should seem altogether to ignore the vital spiritual qualifications, I must go on to say that I felt a bit discouraged about the