

We believe that next to the exegesis of Scripture is the ability to get it across is the most important desideratum for a servant of the Lord.

Paul said in Rom. 10:14, "How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? How can they believe in the Name of one they have not heard? How can they hear without a preacher? God has given preaching as his means of spreading the gospel. Now preaching doesn't simply mean speaking in a pulpit. Everyone whether God calls you to what we call full-time Christian service, whether he calls you to support yourself as Paul did by secular work, everyone has contacts and opportunities to spread the Word of God.

Everyone who has opportunities in meeting with other Christians to give them teaching from the Word of God that will increase their effectiveness and draw them closer to Him. As I said, we are not simply interested in training pastor's as a profession. We are interested in training those who will build the sort that God wants built. Who will build gold and silver, not wood, hay and stubble. How easy it is to spend our time studying matters that make little difference to the accomplishment of God's will.

I heard the other day of about a group in a seminary who was studying the ancient MSS and later MSS of the Bible, particularly of the NT, to find out exactly what was the original text. Now I personally believe that God has so preserved His text that any copy of the Greek NT will give the way of salvation and the most essential truths. I believe that if you take any group of MSS of any size, you will get sufficient certainly on the text to be able to spend a lifetime in determining exactly what God's truth is on a great many matters.

We have people in our day who are very much excited about getting the exact original text, and God has not given us the means to do it. We do not know the exact original text. But comparing Greek MSS and studying them, to see what the text was is certainly worthwhile. You take the work Westcott and Hort did. You take the publication of Tischendorf. You take the publication of von Soden. You take Nestle's work. You take the various editions of the Greek NT and comparing them, and comparing their evidence and seeing exactly what the text is is worthwhile, and is certainly worth a person giving time and attention to them.

I heard about an institution where a group of students set to work to make a thorough investigation of all the translations into English of the NT in the last 100 years, and there are 100 of them--an average of one a year. So they have picked out certain key vv. and in these vv. they compare them with Westcott and Hort, with Tischendorf, with von Soden, with Nestle, with the text of the ABS, with the text of various editions of the TR. And they try to decide in each case which the text would be--which Greek text was used. Of all the worthless ways to spend people's time, I can't think of one that is more!