

## Remarks Regarding Theological Education

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Sometimes it is said that a theological professor should not be called reverend because he is a scholar and not a pastor. This, however, is a false idea of what a theological professor should be. A theological professor has one of the most important pastoral jobs there is, that of training young men who will be leaders for the cause of Christ in days to come. No matter how much a theologian<sup>on</sup> may add to human knowledge, no matter how much reputation he may gain as a scholar, no matter how much acclaim his lectures may receive, if he is not primarily a pastor he is not fulfilling his duty to Christ.

A theological professor has one of the greatest tasks in the world. ~~He~~ If a student fails to get something important in elementary school the lack may be corrected in high school. If he fails to get it in high school the lack may be corrected in college. If he fails to get it in college there is still a possibility in seminary. But for most students the seminary is the last opportunity.

Many a theological professor will look back with tremendous disappointment when he sees the whole course of his life and accomplishment, and notices individuals who have been in his classes who have perhaps done good work in them but who have had spiritual problems with which he might have helped but which he either did not find out about or, if he did, did not take the time to try to help them. Many a young man whose life, humanly speaking, might have accomplished much for the Lord, has lived a wasted life, <sup>2</sup> going through forms and ceremonies <sup>1</sup> perhaps, <sup>3</sup> or perhaps dropping out of the ministry altogether, but accomplishing little or nothing for the Lord, when, with comparatively little time and effort a theological professor might have found the ~~causes~~ points at which ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> was being led astray and <sup>they have</sup> helped him to get his feet firmly planted on the solid rock.

~~When I was in Princeton Seminary one of the students who did fairly good work boasted (!) that not a single professor in the seminary knew him at sight. I myself knew quite a number of the Princeton Seminary professors rather intimately, but there were others whom I hardly knew at all, and who perhaps did not know me at all.~~