

I think anybody would be far wiser to get Greek thoroughly. To be able to get to your N.T. and take up any section of it and see exactly any section of it. Even if you only know the O.T. in English, it is far better than to get a smattering of both. Of course for Christian leadership, we need men who can interpret both of them. We need more than a smattering of either one. The N.T. is the center of our religion. Well, then, why bother with the O.T. When I was studying in the University of Berlin, I attended the last series of lectures that were given by Professor _____, the great liberal scholar of the last generation, almost the founder, you might say, of the old-fashioned liberalism. His book "What is Christianity?", translated, he told me, into 17 different languages. He was a very great scholar and a very great thinker. So it was a privilege to attend his series of lectures, the last series of lectures he gave, just a year or two before he died. They met in a large class room and to get a good seat it was necessary to go in ahead and tack one's visitor's card on the back of the desired seat. So we went in a week before the lectures started and there in the second row in the middle of the row, I put my visiting card. So I sat in the middle of the second row and there were four other American students at right and left of me. It happened that one day the American students were not there and a couple in front of me were not there either. So I was rather alone in my particular seat and rather in a conspicuous position. And in that lecture the Professor was speaking of the canon of the New Testament and he said one of the effects of the canon of the N.T. was to make rigid and permanent the canon of the O.T. He said that the fact that the N.T. was accepted as a fixed group of books which were considered as the Word of God meant that the O.T. was maintained in the Christian church. He said this is a historical fact. He said, some of you, like myself, may wish it wasn't a fact. Some people have wished the O.T. was lost in the early days of the Christian church, but I don't feel that way about it, but in German Bibles they have the Apochrypha in smaller type and headed "Books not inspired but valuable for reading", and Professor _____ said If the next edition of the Bible should be printed the way I'd like it to be, the O.T. would be put in the back as an appendix with the heading Books not ^{inspired} ~~inspired~~ but valuable for reading. Now when he made that statement, immediately they applauded in the German fashion with their feet. After the applause he said, But you needn't worry, it won't be done that way. So I thought if it was all right to applaude one statement from the Professor, surely it was all right to applaude another.