

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINARY COURSE

In our discussion of the general principles of the work at Faith Seminary for the coming year, I mentioned that it is vital that we think of the work not simply as giving a series of courses which must be passed in order to get a degree but as an effort to help the students to reach certain objectives or to acquire certain qualities or skills. The effectiveness of our work should be greatly increased if we have in mind precisely what these skills are, so as to relate them at each point to the conduct of the various courses and of the other phases of the Seminary work.

It seems to me that each of these skills is of great importance. If any one of them is overlooked, the success of the entire training suffers thereby.

1. Development of the spiritual life

This should certainly be placed first, because it is by far the most important of all the objectives that should be before us in the Seminary course. Even though a student learns to understand all the problems of theology and can interpret the Scripture with precise correctness, if he does not have a personal relation to the Lord and a desire to serve Him, it is all of no account. The tendency in most seminaries is to take the spiritual life for granted and to deal with it in a rather formal manner, rather than to give close and careful attention to the development of the spiritual life of each individual. In Faith Seminary from the beginning we have placed a considerably greater stress on the development of the spiritual than is done in most seminaries. Yet I feel that it is vital that we take a big step forward in this regard. It is desirable that our chapels be more closely integrated with one another