

not the only reason. I don't think this passage here applies just to the Christian ministry. I think there is a sense in which it applies to every one who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ? If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, then He expects you to love His sheep. He expects you to love His people, and to help His people. He expects you in some sense at least to feed His sheep if you are one who loves Him, and this does not apply in this limited sense just to those who are called to the Christian ministry, but applies to every believer. It is not God's will that we do like the Anchorites (?) of the third and fourth centuries a.d., we ~~xxx~~ say we love Him, so we go out in the desert somewhere, and live in a cave ~~and think we are~~ and think we are honoring God by it. That is not His purpose for His people. It is His purpose if we love Him, that we represent Him, that we serve Him, and that we ^{help} ~~xxx~~ those who are His, that we feed His sheep. That is His purpose, that is why He leaves us here, that is His purpose for all of His people, but it is His particular purpose for those whom He calls into His service. Everything else must be a means to an end. You enjoy Hebrew, you like to study Hebrew, and it is grand that you do. But why to study Hebrew? Do you study Hebrew to learn a little more about Hebrew? To learn a little more of the principles of it? To get a little more idea of the proof about these standard? The purpose of studying Hebrew is to learn what God's Word means. It must have that purpose or there is no more value before the Lord in studying Hebrew, than there is in studying astronomy or in studying....7½...

You like to study God's Word, you like to ~~xx~~ figure out what it means. That is fine. Why do you want to figure out what God's Word means? Why do you ~~xxx~~ want to know His purpose? ^{If} ~~xx~~ you know all the ~~xxx~~ truths in God's universe, if you know all of those truths, you would take millions of years to gather them, and then you wouldn't know them a fraction as well as He does. The acquisition of truth for its own sake is not God's purpose for us.

When I was in Princeton Seminary one of our professors preached a sermon which I greatly detested. I did not like his emphasis at all, and yet there