

He spent 40 years in obscurity learning to be nothing. You can have all the knowledge, all the ability, all the skill to serve God and you're very conscious that you have, and you look down on everybody else it is highly questionable that God will use you. God wants us to learn that we are nothing and that He is everything. He wants us to learn that not by might or by power but by God's spirit he can use us.

That's hard to teach in a classroom. But we want you to go to prayer meeting. We want you to have your private devotional study. We want you to spend time studying Scripture and realizing what God wants you to do. We want you to realize more and more each day that the true servant of God the one who is crucified with Christ can say, I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me. It is Jesus who died on the Cross who matters and each one of us is nothing, and yet God can use nothing to accomplish a tremendous work. for Him.

So more and more even than your knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, more and more than your reading the Scripture, more and more than your training in any particular phase is your personal devotional life your personal knowledge of Him. Some of you God may use in tremendous ways to move multitudes; some of you God may give disappointments and discouragements. People won't understand you. People will look down on you. People won't realize what you have. Your life may seem to be a failure. Yet that failure may accomplish more for God than one of the great apparent successes if you are truly, devoted to God. If you truly realize that you are nothing that Jesus is everything, that you are merely an ambassador for Christ.

So we must place in our personal lives to serve Him most. Second, to absolutely nothing our personal knowledge of Christ, our personal realization that we are just worms of the dust in comparison to Jesus Christ who is the great master of the universe, and it is only as He chooses to use us that our lives can accomplish anything for God. That is a lesson you can spend all your life learning but we hope you will make real headway in it during your seminary course. Because without it nothing is worthwhile.

Think what it meant to Moses, as Hebrews says. Not willing to be considered the son of Pharaoh's daughter but choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Oh how many fail to get that. One of Paul's great helpers was Demas. Demas was so valuable and did so much for God and then Paul after having written various letters telling how Demas joined him in sending greetings to various churches, he finally says, Demas has forsaken us having loved this present world.

Consecration cannot be done once forever. We must lay ourselves at Jesus' feet every single day. Consecration is an ongoing duty that has to be done anew every day. Are you desirous of enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season? Or are you willing to lay all at the feet of Christ that He may be supreme in everything you do? That is our purpose in this seminary: to train men who have that attitude.