

prepares for us daily. There may be verses here which a tremendous blessing to people 500 years ago, but have less relevance to our particular situation today.

So it's very interesting to read what this scholar thought and what that scholar thought and what the other theologian thought. It ~~is~~ is interesting and lots of fun. But to get what God wants you to get there are 66 books here that God has given us for our sanctification. The more we learn to understand those books and get into them and get methods of interpretation, because no one can cover more than a tiny fraction in the course of three or four years of study. But get the methods whereby you can say this has certain possibilities, and between these two or three possibilities we have to find other passages.

This says this definitely, and we can explain other passages in the light of it. That to my thinking is the great central reason to our being here. It is the great central emphasis that I have always tried to maintain in every place where I have taught. God's Word is His instrument for our truth, for our salvation, for our sanctification.

I picked up a book one time in a religious book store-- "religious" in quotation marks! and this book was written by a Methodist minister and entitled, "How to become a Bishop without being Religious". In the course of the book (--I did not read it through but I glanced at various places in it)-- there was one place I noticed where he said, If you want people to like your sermons, frequently say, The Bible says, and then after you say that you can say anything you want and they will take it from you because you say it's what the Bible says, and they will like your preaching! I fear there are many ministers like that, who are blind leading others astray. But God wants us to grow by feeding on His Word, by studying His Word and learning the truths he has for us.

I say that for a Christian to spend three or four years learning to interpret the Word of God so that he can go on studying the 66 books the rest of his life, is thoroughly worthwhile, if he never gets into a position where he is expounding it for others. It would be worthwhile for his own sanctification. I know of nothing that is so important for his progress in sanctification, or for his preparation to serve the Lord -- I don't say it's the way necessarily of making great fame, or it's not necessarily to where people will say he's a tremendous preacher or a wonderful Christian worker, but in a way that in the sight of God will mean that he has been accomplishing what God wants him to do. Sanctify them by thy Word, Thy Word is truth. May this semester be a time when everyone of us--myself as much as the rest-- may make progress in learning to interpret the Word of God, to understand what God has to say to us. A time when you will be contemplating the glory of God, when we'll be learning more about the Word of truth, and a time when we will be reflecting it more and more as its truth sinks more and more deeply into our own hearts and lives.