

the insufficient training in which he trusted was unable to help him meet the arguments of such professors, finally changed his whole viewpoint on life. He graduated and went to a modernistic seminary and spent the remainder of his life denying the Word of God which once he had loved.

Ahab, king of Israel's proverb, "Let not him that girdeth on his armour boast himself as he that putteth it off," is true for the young person who is full of faith but who is not very much trained, and who thinks himself capable of meeting and vanquishing the giants of infidelity. We read in the Bible that even the archangel Michael, when striving about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to curse the Devil but had to say, "The Lord rebuke thee." Without a doubt, Satan is powerful beyond any effort we humans can put forth. After a man has once completed thorough training in a sound theological seminary and then perhaps taken additional work of a similar nature on a graduate level, he is then and only then in a position carefully and slowly to survey the arguments given against the Bible and to pick out what is true from what is false. For a man without any seminary education at all to sit in classes in which there is a belief and unbelief mixed together, listening to rapidly given lectures or class discussions, to think himself accurately and adequately able to separate truth from falsehood, is an intellectual conceit which God shall not bless nor honor.

God abhors pride. Pride caused Satan's downfall. God wants us to stand before Him humbly and to submit ourselves unto Him. He wants us to recognize the truth of His Word and accept what it teaches. He wants us to train under men who themselves believe it. The time may come, eventually, when some of us, after a thorough conservative training, will be ready then to go and study under out-and-out modernists and Barthians in order to see the exact bearing of their teaching and to help deliver others from it.

A good reason does not exist, however,

for a Bible believer to try to learn how to serve God by studying under men whose teaching is made up partly of belief in the Bible and partly of denial of the Bible, no matter how attractive such a mixture appears at first glance to be. Those believers who do so usually end in swallowing so much unbelief that God lays them aside from his approved service. "It is never right to do wrong to get an opportunity to do right."

II. *Choose a Seminary which is scholarly in its Approach.*

A student should study in a theological seminary which is scholarly in its approach to the Bible. Someone has said that all we need to know is John 3:16 — we should go and give out only that message and that is enough. It is, of course, a fact that if everything in the Bible which presents some phase of the truth contained in John 3:16 were removed from the Bible and put to one side along with John 3:16 itself, and all the rest were put to the other side, we would be far better off with the verses giving the truth of John 3:16 than with all the rest put together. John 3:16 does give us the very heart of the Bible, but it is not the complete Bible; it is not the complete message of God. Properly to understand the meaning of this verse, one needs to study many other portions of the Bible. God has given us a wonderful Word with simple truth so clear that a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. At the same time it contains very wonderful teachings, not so simple to arrive at, which we need to dig into carefully and exegetically in order to get at that which is vital for our lives.

Sometimes God may use as His spokesman someone who has no more training than Balaam's ass, but this is exceptional. The great leaders of God's work have been men of thorough, careful training: such men as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Wesley. These men had received the highest training available in their day before starting out in their great work for God.

"Scholarship" does not mean simply sitting in front of a group of men who