

# BULLETIN SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Lee Gallman, Director                      Box 530                      Jackson, Mississippi

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## MEET THE PROFESSOR

Clyde T. Francisco, B.A., Th.M.,  
Th.D.

Dr. Francisco was born in Virginia, Virginia, and received his B.A. from the University of Richmond. He completed his four-year course there with no grade lower than an "A", an unequaled record in that institution. His Th.M. and Th.D. degrees were received from Southern Seminary.

He held student pastorates in Virginia and Kentucky. Dr. Francisco began his teaching career as tutor in Old Testament but is now a full professor and acting head of the Old Testament Department at Southern Seminary.

He has written the course, Old Testament 131 for this Department which uses one of his books, Introducing the Old Testament, as one of its texts. The other text is, Preaching from the Psalms by Yates. This course is required in our Bible Course but is an elective in the Pastoral Training and Religious Education Courses.

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Henceforth our terminology will take the up-to-date road from "syllabi" to "syllabuses", the preferred spelling in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.  
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## THE DIRECTOR TRAVELS

Director Gallman is now on a trip through the west in the interest of the Seminary Extension Department.

He is attending the Conventions of Washington-Oregon, California, and Arizona. Last week he presented the work to three strategic points in New Mexico with good results. He expects to return to Jackson, Mississippi about the middle of November.

## WHAT IS PREPARATION?

A great deal has been said about preparation for the ministry, preparation for life work, and preparation for emergencies. One needs to think of preparation in the light of its real meaning.

To some, all that is needed for a minister is courses in the Bible, Doctrines, Evangelism, and Religious Education. They would say that preparation consists of a completion of prescribed courses. This is far from the truth. One is prepared who is ready for his work. It is not so much that he knows enough to go into any situation as a master the first day, but that he has enough grasp of the issues to take any situation and learn it. He knows where to turn for information in his field; he knows how to study for each situation; and most of all, he is not afraid to acknowledge his limitations. After finishing the seminary, many of us have heard untrained men do a better job of preaching; often we have met those who are better equipped than we to preside over a body, give the invitation at the close of a sermon, or present his side of an issue. A prepared man should know

what he is prepared to begin to learn. He is, of course, expert in some areas in which he has given much attention, but in the main he is prepared to learn by doing.

In Baptist life a preacher could not be considered prepared who has nothing more than a degree or diploma. He must ask, "Am I ready to approach this situation, to study it carefully and learn"? If he should confront a new situation he should know where to turn for necessary information. When he approaches his Bible, his attitude must be such that he can learn from it. Its message must become his message before he can preach it to others.

To approximate this he must have the proper attitude toward the Bible. It is well for him to know how many chapters, verses, and words are contained in the Bible; it is better for him to know what they mean. It is well for him to know how many times they are used; it is better to know how they are used. He may approach the Bible as if it were a puzzle and seek to solve its riddle. He may look upon it as a universal calendar predicting (along with the signs of the Zodiac) the exact details of the future, or he may accept it as God's message to his heart. After permitting it to speak quietly to his soul, searching out his sins, then he will be enabled to offer his experience.

Preparation, if properly pursued, will eliminate the fanciful notions in a preacher's development in preference for the plain truths; these are profound enough for the greatest thinkers of history. They should at least be stimulating to the prepared preachers.

Some are critical of our educational methods which aim to prepare the attitude, the background, and give the student a foundation on which to decide issues rather than teach him the answers. The man who knows the answers, but who does not know the reason nor the basis upon

which the conclusions he has accepted as true have been made, is unprepared. He may speak the magnificent language of the platitudinous orator and keep the phraseology of the didactic, but he could not independently confront the issues himself. Our educational methods seek to help the student know the background, the historical setting, the issues, and the complications involved in various conclusions; but the conclusions rest with the student. This is sound. It does not always produce identical results, but does the dogmatic, didactic method?

#### BOOKS

The Minister's Personal Guide, Walter E. Schuette. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1953. \$3.00

This book was written from the background of more formalism than one finds among Baptists; therefore, some things are not pertinent to our church life. Yet, this is one of the most thoroughly analytical works one could find. The author covers fifty-four vital issues of a minister in nine chapters.

Ministerial ethics and behavior are well treated. Actually, this is its service. We would not accept some of his conclusions but all are worthy of note. One could profit from his chapter on "The Minister's Official Relations" without agreeing that wearing a robe in the pulpit is advisable.

I heartily commend this book with the limitations which any Baptist would place upon it.

The Preacher: His Belief and Behavior by J. W. Storer is another work which we commend. Dr. Storer is the President of The Southern Baptist Convention.

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