

# BULLETIN

## SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

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### Watch the Short Cut

One of the greatest temptations which we as human beings face is the temptation to seek the short cut. This short cut may be a convenient device for those who are traveling, or it may turn out to be a perilous, unmarked road. On the map it appears to be a good highway, but actually, it may be beset with many detours and delays. I know for a fact that there is danger in taking the short cut when it comes to confronting life's problems.

There is no greater temptation to a young preacher than that of seeking the short cut in his training. It has its attractiveness. The short cut is easy to pursue, it eliminates the drudgery of hard work, and there are many people who do not know the difference. With their diploma from a Bible school, or from some far off unrelated institution, one can wear a degree and many a person will not know the difference. Many of the churches will be fooled. He may thereby gain for himself a prestige which is not actually his, but one cannot escape facts. The short cut is always less than the best. In the process vital training is missed. Many gaps in an education are found in the short cut method.

Moreover, the real purpose of growth is absent. For learning is growing. One can no more become a

mature scholar or student in a few short lessons than he can grow from childhood to adulthood in a month. In addition, that person that has gone the short cut route is always living in the fear that some day he will be discovered. In my own acquaintance, I saw one of these men discovered. His deacons completely lost confidence in him. In less than three months he had to leave.

But more than this, the short cut is the route to plagiarism, and plagiarism is downright dishonest. There is no short cut to developing a good and helpful sermon. The preacher who wants to develop a sermon that has depth and meaning will have to dig and dig. He will have to pray. His message must be his own. Of course, there is a short cut. He can get books of sermons, manuals of sermons with a sermon for each Sunday and a prayer meeting talk for the mid-week. Yes, and also little tips on talks to social clubs will be included. But there are no short cuts to real preaching.

The aping process destroys depth of character. I remember talking to my Hebrew professor one day after I had made a bad mark (I suppose I was the only student to ever make a bad mark in Hebrew). I said, "This is hard." The old doctor failed to see the point.

Instead of putting his arm about my shoulder and telling me how sorry he was that I was having to dig so hard, he looked at me in almost disgust and replied, "Who said it was easy?" Before my eyes I could see those before me who had dug in to learn Greek and Hebrew and Theology. Who said it was easy? Don't take the short cut! Take your time and make learning a matter of growth.

### New Extension Centers

New Extension Centers are continuing to be established throughout the entire scope of the Southern Baptist Convention. A number of new centers have opened this year and others will be opening later. Among those beginning in January are Houston, Texas; Hobbs, New Mexico; Denver, Colorado; Cape Girardeau and Warrensburg, Missouri.

Modesto, California, Forest and Lucedale, Mississippi have set their dates to open early in February. A great deal of interest is being shown in San Bernardino, California, Sweet Home and Eugene, Oregon, Canon City, Colorado, and other places will be announcing their opening soon.

Director Gallman is currently touring North and South Carolina conferring with state and associational leadership in various sections on the establishment of more centers in that area.

### The Proof of the Puddin'

I used to hear the saying when I was growing up, "The proof of the puddin' is in the eating." Once I worked for a manufacturing concern that devised a most ingenious method of making his products. It was the marvel of people throughout the whole section of the world. Pictures were taken of his plant in operation. It was tried and put through the mill twelve or fifteen

months, and suddenly a million dollar project was "junked". The reason was that the older method proved to be more effective. The products were not as good after the ingenious method went to work. "The proof of the puddin' is in the eating."

The Seminary Extension Department began a few months back to offer on-the-job-training to preachers. We have made a lot of claims, we have set goals and we have enrolled a large number of people. Some of the results that have been attained through the Seminary Extension Department have been given by those who have worked in the centers and by those who have taken work by correspondence. The Extension Center has proved to be an effective means of uniting Baptists in the city and of the town and country into a program of sharing the learning experiences. It has proved to be an effective means of developing a fellowship and of helping the preacher to obtain a better education. "The proof of the puddin' is in the eating."

We have many glowing reports from our students who have taken our work by correspondence. Here is an example.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for helping me with this work. I can say that my study habits and form of delivery have improved one hundred per cent. Again, thanks to each of you who have had a part in helping me." "Since October, I have been attending night classes at one of our Junior Colleges...Again there my study with the Seminary Extension Department has more than proved itself." "The proof of the puddin' is in the eating."

CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS. . . . .  
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