

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT

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Jackson Mississippi

VOLUME III

July 1954

NUMBER 7

A MATTER OF HONESTY

The main thing we have been plugging for through the Seminary Extension Bulletin is for a sense of honesty on the part of those who interpret the Bible. This may to some degree appear to be an indictment of those who disagree with us. But it is not so intended. All of us are human enough to plug for own position; but as we plug for a position which we hold, we must remember that there are others who have positions to which they are committed just as tenaciously as are we. Most of us become fresh tinder for the fires of mistrust, hatred, and abuse whenever we become so persistent in our views that we brook no place for others. I am thinking of a church in which a group of people were led to declare that certain Sunday School teachers did not believe in the Virgin Birth because they used the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. That cannot be called anything but emotional dishonesty.

In our attempt to hold fast to our own pet theories, we make the dishonest claim of having authority which we do not actually have. Scholarship does give

some measure of authority. It never, however, gives a person authority to discount the views of others. One of the marks of scholarship is that the scholar tends to respect the views of others even with those who disagree with him.

Recently, in response to an article which this writer wrote, in which he stated that not many can claim to be authoritative in Greek, a profound student of Greek wrote, "I have dabbled with Greek for many years, and yet I would not dare say that I am an authority in the field." That is the tendency of scholarship. Let us face up to it. It is downright dishonest to claim to have a knowledge in a field in which you do not have a knowledge.

The tendency of immaturity is to slash right and left, friend and foe with the sword of dogmatism and egotistical notions. Perhaps it would be well for us to recall the words of the apostle, "In judging others you judge yourself."

Another place where honesty is involved is in the attempt to prove the meaning of certain passages of scripture by some

great parallelism in our own life when this parallelism does not exist. An example can be found of this when a good friend of mine preached a sermon on "Losing Jesus." It was authoritative. He declared to the congregation that he lost Jesus for three days and it was the greatest nightmare of his whole life. Or take the man who claims that he has received the verification of a certain brand of theology by praying several days and the Lord revealed it to him. Or take the man who wanted to know for sure what a certain passage of scripture meant so he prayed and the result was some wierd interpretation which was beyond the literary meaning of the scripture.

Brethren, be fair with God. That is not how God reveals the truth in His word. One man proved the Second Coming of Christ by a dream, the scripture notwithstanding. We have known others to cut off in the middle of a verse when the latter part of the verse would defeat his purpose. For example Jesus said "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." An expositor declared that this could not mean anything else except the ascension of Christ. But the latter part of the verse states, He said this to show by what death he would die. (R.S.V.)

Simple honesty requires that we learn the literary meaning of the passage on which we base our sermons and interpretations. It is all a matter of honesty.

TIME TO GO

With but few weeks left before September rolls around, those who plan to begin Seminary Ex-

tension Centers this fall should be up and at it. In order to begin well you need to plan ahead. September is a good time to begin but some schools could start earlier; others will want to begin later.

Have you-

1. Given time on the program of the executive committee (or board) for a full discussion of Seminary Extension Center?
2. Voted to project a center and appointed a committee to work out details?
3. Ascertained the need?
4. Set up time, place, and schedule?
5. Enlisted; Director, Registrar, and teachers?
6. Written to Jackson for information?

We have the following Centers-

Arkansas, Helena, Rev. Ralph Douglas, Director. Teachers: Rev. Wilson C. Deese, Rev. J. B. Measel, Rev. Ralph Douglas. (for Negroes.)

California, Anaheim, Rev. Preston Howell, Director. Teachers: Rev. D. P. Muxlow, Rev. George Hook, Rev. Preston Howell.

Modesto, Rev. John W. Watson, Director. Teachers: Rev. Paul Flynn, Rev. W. P. Updyke, Rev. Guy Bradley, Rev. Charles Christian.

Tulare, Rev. Guy D. Newton, Director. Teachers: Rev. Marvin D. Kilman, Rev. A. Max Willocks.

Colorado, Denver, Dr. S. W. Driggers, Director and teacher

Florida, Jacksonville, Rev. A. W. Mathis, Director. Teachers: Rev. Tom M. Collins, Dr. R. Grady Snowden, Rev. C. M. Coalson.
Pensacola, Rev. A. B. Allen, Director. Teachers: Dr. Elroy Lamb, Rev. A. B. Allen, Rev. Otto

Whittington.

Louisiana, Coushatta, Rev. Jack Shaw, Director and teacher.
Winnfield, Dr. W. L. Holcomb, Director and teacher.
 Michigan, Detroit, Rev. E. B. Pryor, Director and teacher.
 Mississippi, Batesville, Rev. Robert W. Martin, Director and teacher. Rev. Frank Moody Purser teacher.
Corinth, Rev. Norris G. Hickman, Director. Teachers: Rev. Teddy Evans, Rev. Earl Warford.
Forest, Rev. Jeff Brantley, Director. Teachers: Rev. John W. Cook, Rev. L. A. Curtis, Rev. Troy Prince.
Lucedale, Rev. Lincoln D. Newman, Director. Teachers: Rev. W. M. Averett, Rev. U. G. Salter, Rev. Van Hardin, Rev. Lincoln D. Newman.
McLain, Rev. Lincoln D. Newman, Director. Teacher, Rev. W. M. Averett.
Pontotoc, Rev. Foy Rogers, Director. Teacher, Rev. J. C. Monroe.

Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Dr. Thomas Messer, Director. Teachers: Rev. L. W. Cleland, Dr. T. S. Messer.
Springfield, Dr. Clifford Ingle, Director and teacher.
Hayti, Rev. Shirley Spahr, Director and teacher.
Warrensburg, Dr. Curtis A. Hutcherson, Director and teacher.

New Mexico, Roswell, Rev. J. H. Brister, Director. Teachers: Mrs. Earl O. Whitfield, Rev. E. O. Whitfield, Rev. S. M. Morgan, Rev. Chester Bunch, Rev. Theodore K. Roberts.
Hobbs, Rev. T. L. Denton, Director. Teachers: Mr. Joe Gauntt, Rev. Chester G. Watts, Rev. O. A. Edwards, Rev. Clyde R. Campbell.

North Carolina, Charlotte, Rev. E. R. Echerd, Jr. Director. (will open in September)
Grensboro, Rev. T. L. Sasser, Director. (will open in September.)
Murphy, Rev. Alton Morris, Director. Teachers: Rev. Edward G. Altland, Rev. J. G. Miller, Rev. J. Alton Morris.
North Wilkesboro, Rev. Robert L. Franklin, Director.

Oklahoma, Bartlesville, Rev. Jess Dittman, Director. Teacher: Dr. Roger D. Hebard.
Ponca City, Dr. D. E. Strahan, Director and teacher.
McAllister, Rev. Wayne Britton, Director. (will open in September.)

South Carolina
Charleston, Dr. W. C. Horltdt, Director. Teachers: Rev. Chester F. Russell, Rev. Claud W. White, Rev. John A. Hamrick.
Greenwood, Rev. H. B. Alexander Director and Teacher.

Texas, Houston, Dr. John C. Curtis, Director. Teachers: Rev. John T. Taylor, Rev. Harold L. Bass, Dr. John J. Curtis.
Laird Hill, Rev. V. M. Nipper, Director. Teachers, Rev. V. L. McKee, Rev. Jessie N. Phillips.
Huntsville, Dr. Gordon Clinard, Director and teacher.

BOOK REVIEWS

J. B. Weatherspoon, SENT FORTH TO PREACH, Studies in Apostolic Preaching, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1954.

This book is suggestive of the extent and limits of this work. The author, Dr. Weather-
 spoon, has been teaching

Homiletics twenty-five years in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and before that taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is thoroughly qualified to give such a study as this. The first chapter, "The Apostles of Christ" seeks to show the nature of the office to which they had been called as apostles. Chapter two, "The Dynamic of Preaching" relates the importance of the Spirit and His work in and through the apostles at the beginning period. In chapter three the nature of preaching is examined both as to content and method. Chapter four, "The Word of the Gospel" reviews the content of the Gospel message. Chapters five, six, and seven expound the nature of the work of the early apostles in making disciples, building up the church and standing the tests of the times. The author's bibliography shows contact with the outstanding works in the field to which he has given attention and study.

Of particular interest in this field is the work by C. H. Dodd on APOSTOLIC PREACHING AND ITS DEVELOPMENTS. This work has tremendous repercussion when it first appeared. Any book on this subject will be examined by careful students to ascertain the connections and relationships to Dodd's work. The book, SENT FORTH TO PREACH is not an exposition of Dodd, it is an exposition of the work of the apostles and in a sense may be regarded as New Theology. I commend it to all as one of the finer works of a Southern Baptist scholar.

HOW TO STUDY THE PSALMS, Robert T. Daniel. An exposition of twelve favorite Psalms. This is a sort of introduction to the study of Psalms put in language which the average preacher can

understand. The introductory passage itself is worth the price of the book. The expositions are suggestive of how to give attention to these works but one would really have to have command of Hebrew to do it as Dr. Daniel has done it. The particular twelve Psalms are significant. They are not only chosen as favorite Psalms but as those which would give insight to the religious hope and experiences of an ancient people. It is definitely not a book of sermons. But when you read, preaching values appear on the surface. The last chapter will be found to be of great help, and in addition to giving the teachings of the twelve favorite Psalms, they actually give a reflection of the theology and theological concepts of the Old Testament. I do not hesitate to recommend this fine work to preachers of all levels of training for it is readable and yet profound.

The study guide for the course, Religious Education 115, has been printed recently. This course by Dr. Finley B. Edge is one of the finest on teaching principles. It is being used in the class rooms at the seminary and is one of the required subjects for the Religious Education Series. This course is especially good for teachers and officers in the Sunday School or for anyone dealing with teachers in any organization. Enrol now for help in teaching your class, or if you are a superintendent, it will be of tremendous value in leading your teachers to do effective teaching. Price \$9.50.

Statistical Report, July 1, 1954, 1159 correspondence students.