

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

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Meet the Professor

William L. Howse, A.M., D.R.E., L.H.D. Dr. Howse was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, and is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tennessee. He has endeared himself to the hearts of his pupils through the years because of his thoroughly integrated Christian life. As a religious personality, he inspires those who know him to piety; as a student of the Bible, he leads his pupils to devote themselves to the pursuit of its content; as a worker, he leads his pupils to a "doing religion." He is very popular as a teacher and friend on the campus of Southwestern Seminary.

He has already achieved a high degree of recognition among his fellow teachers, and as an author and contributor to various quarterlies and journals. He is the author of the study course book, Teaching Young People in the Sunday School.

The Extension Department looked to him when the course in Church Leadership was set up. It is a well-written course designed to help the student obtain essential information on leadership in the church.

Last year Dr. Howse traveled through our Latin American countries conferring with various leaders in Religious Education on these fields.

How the Bible has been Interpreted

The fact that our Bible is literature guarantees that it will suffer many types of interpretations. This was true of the Old Testament before the coming of Jesus; this was also true of the New Testament in the earlier years. Some of these methods with their good and bad points have come down to the present time.

Allegorical Interpretation:
Our Bible contains interpretations which would have to be called allegorical. This is the method by which the speaker, or writer, makes a passage mean something other than its original meaning. Paul in Galatians 4:22-31 makes a figure of speech out of the historical incident of the birth of Abraham's sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Moses wrote about Isaac and Ishmael because they were actual characters, but Paul makes a different use of the story. Isaac represents freedom and Ishmael bondage. The author of Hebrews does the same with Melchisedec. He was an historical person whose father and mother are not mentioned, neither is his birth nor death. This suggests the idea of eternity, "No beginning, no end." The author followed up this idea in the 7th chapter of Hebrews. Moses wrote about Melchisedec because he actually lived but the author of Hebrews adds a passage

from the Psalms and makes the passage mean more than an historical incident.

Parables lend themselves to allegorical treatment. Take the parable of the Good Samaritan for example. Some make the Priest and Levite represent the Law, the wounded man represents the sinner, and the Good Samaritan represents Jesus. This is a mild example of allegorizing, for some would add that Jericho=Hell, Jerusalem=Heaven, the road=life, wine and oil=salvation, etc.

Whereas, some good results may be derived from allegorical interpretation, yet on the whole it should be avoided because it does not bring the hearer to an understanding of the scripture. It may aid one in making some principle clear, but the passage itself suffers. When this method is followed, the preacher should make it clear that he is departing from the real meaning of the passage.

The ancient rabbis used to follow the allegorical methods quite freely with the result that the original meaning was lost, and they failed to see their Messiah.

Note to Student

When you enroll with the Seminary Extension Department as a correspondence student, we want to do all that we can to help you get the most out of the course, or courses, you are studying. We have instructors who are well trained in each field to grade your lessons for you. The notes and suggestions that they make are to help you. It is not done through a spirit of criticism or condemnation. Please take the markings and grades in the spirit in which they are given. If at any time you wish to ask a question or you do not understand a question, please feel free to write about it.

Grading System

The grading system that is used by the Seminary Extension Department is the standard grading system of the National Extension Association. Listed below you will find the letters with the corresponding grades.

A+..(Excellent).....	95-100
A ..(Very good).....	90- 94
B+..(Good).....	85- 89
B ..(Fairly good).....	80- 84
C+..(Fair).....	75- 79
C ..(Passing).....	70- 74
D ..(Unsatisfactory).	below 70

If your grade is a D for any reason, you have the privilege of re-doing that lesson and raising your grade.

New Extension Centers

We have three new centers to add to our growing list of extension centers.

The center in Coushatta, Louisiana is using the Group Study Plan and is under the direction of Rev. Jack Shaw, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Coushatta. Ministers from surrounding territories meet for group discussions.

Dr. W. L. Holcomb, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Winnfield, Louisiana has organized a center in his church. He reports that there is much interest and that he expects his enrollment to increase with the next semester.

The Chipley, Florida Center is off to an excellent start under the direction of Rev. Leslie E. Sanders, pastor of the First Baptist Church. To date, thirteen have enrolled with one auditor.

Statistical Report

CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS
MARCH 26, 1953.....794.

The Seminary Extension Department-
As near as your mailbox.