



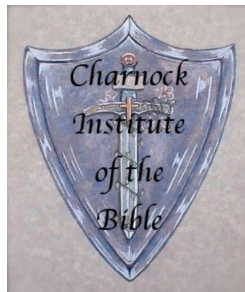
## THE SCHOLAR OR LAY PREACHER

As classes resume at CIB it is a perversion of education when next week I am thinking of the everything is only old, or difference or balance between a everything is only new. They work Biblical Scholar and a Lay- best together. Preacher. Biblical Higher Education should perhaps try to put forth a definition of itself. That is, Who? What? Why? When? and I leave the Where question to others. Men will always gravitate to their roots; even in education. "I'll do what I was taught, only better." Few actually break new ground. But Jesus noted that "a trained Student will be like his Master, bringing out of his treasure chest things new and things old" (Mt. 13). This is the point of education! "Things old," are what we were taught by our Masters. "Things new," are what we have found for ourselves. However,

A.T. Robertson rejected the idea that theological education was a waste of time. He also rejected the idea that it was for making scholars. He said, "If theological education will increase your power for Christ, is it not your duty to gain that added power? . . . Never say you are losing time by going to school. You are saving time, buying it up for the future and storing it away. Time used in storing power is not lost." (cited from, *Going Deeper With New Testament Greek*, Kindle Edition). I could not agree with him more. (continued)

### THINGS NEW . . . THINGS OLD . . .

In Matthew 13 Jesus noted that a trained Student will be like his master bringing out of his treasure chest things new and things old. This is the balance in ministry. Old and Firm Doctrines must be held to and never forsaken. Who throws away gold & diamonds just because they are old! But new treasures are also treasures. The mines found in the Bible are deep & far from played out or exhausted. honor what deserves to be honored for His glory!



Skilled miners will continue to bring out the great wealth. By the way, a comment on old treasure is in order. Silver has to be polished now & then, & precious stones cleaned. This gives them their original shine. Biblical Doctrines are the same. If they get dirty people will not see their value & will settle for costume jewelry rather than the genuine. Let's all be careful that we

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**Scholar or Lay Preacher**

Seminary is not about making scholars (though there is certainly a need for some!). It is about making clear preachers and teachers. Scholars tend to be annoying and tedious. Writing books that you may consult but that no one wants to read. There is little need in the pulpit for the selective vocabulary and learning of scholars. We preach to bring others to a knowledge of the Scriptures and the Creator.

The opposite is also true. Many Colleges are about creating Lay-Preachers. Men who teach the Bible, but who do not understand it. They think that Biblical Languages are a waste of time; but in reality they waste large amounts of time studying problems which they simply do not have the skills or education to solve. They pray about it, but never crack the shell on a problem passage. The result is spending hundreds of hours chasing down books, opinions of others, technical works, etc. only to find that they either don't understand what these scholars are even saying, or that they have a bunch of views and opinions from which to choose but without the necessary skills to make an intelligent choice.

CIB attempts to meet this head-on. The world of the Bible is the world of Greek and Hebrew; not English. The ignorance of what translation is and is not, even in the pulpit, is astounding. At this point, it can sound like we are attacking the

various translations into the many languages of the world. But the reality is that these translations differ; and for good reason. Lay-Pastors simply cannot deal with the WHY? of these different translations.

Now, let me say at this point that I was a lay-pastor for many years; I just didn't know it! Many of the problem passages were simply either mysteries awaiting the Second Coming, or a Selection Choice from the many views of scholarly (or not so scholarly) men. In fact, I observed a new field of study had been created . . . Interpretology. The study of interpretations, translations, interpretive conclusions, views, etc. Mind you, this is not a study of the teachings of the Bible, but rather views of the Bible; even translations are often differing in their views of what the text says or means. But HOW are we to know?

I believe there may be an answer. I say "may be," for only a controlled test could tell. And then also, how will it be known if those evaluating the text are equipped to do the evaluation in the first place?

We are watching our Students as they go out into the real Ministry World. Our success will be confirmed there. Other Colleges and their Staff, Pastors and Missions organizations will "Yea or Nay," the conclusions. So far we are very pleased. God has been good to us all the way through this process.

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SHALOM!

*n.b. If you are a poor reader or have no passion for God, then CIB is not the place for you.*

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