

In other words, any academic mind can suggest some men and things that really are important to the student. But ultimately it is your skill and discerning facts and their importance that will make the course meaningful. Above all else, don't try to master all the minutia of any historical field unless you are in the genius factor of our society. Even then, please be careful.

Naturally you will miss some of the small points and forget a few others. But if one remembers the career of history and understands from it the cause and results of certain actions, one's study has not been in vain.

### The Importance of the Course

#### I.4 Importance

The importance of the course is summarized in the following steps:

--The study seeks to place the foundation of the modern church and show how the present Institutions developed.

--It demonstrates the intricate workings of personalities in the church and offers some lessons on the machinery employed, rightfully or wrongfully, to achieve some ends.

--It dramatizes the prophetic significance of Matthew 16 in connexion with the adventures noted in pre-reformation church history.

--It seeks to give a presentation to the working of God in history and His control, including methods whereby His will is achieved in the world of men.

--It offers some detailed information on trends and policies that are troublesome but with which the Christian needs be aware and guarded.

--And, incidentally, it provides a lot of material for preaching as well as the historic notes for the understanding of the continuing development of doctrinal expressions.

The value of the course lies in what inductive truths it may lead to so far as the development of church life and practice is concerned. To obtain