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Melvin University
and Me

Theological Schools in the States and in England

I have visited overseas seminaries. Among them, theological schools in the United States and British and were clearly different. While American theological schools were absolutely sympathetic to the church's real needs and trying to meet them, British theological schools seemed more interested in Bible studies, especially Old Testament studies, than church reality. So American seminaries were interested in church revival and taught students that way, while British seminaries seemed to focus on research itself rather than practical.

Here, I will focus on the two representative schools. First, the Cambridge University Divinity School (CDS) in the United Kingdom. I went to the library of Cambridge University's Divinity School, but there were fewer books than I thought, and moreover, books in practical fields were almost out of interest. I think each of them will have a book in the central library of the university, and each professor has books in his own office as needs. Anyway, I thought it could be because it is an Anglican-centered school.

I met with Jeremy Morris, dean of King's College at Cambridge University, and talked more deeply, and Jeremy was able to talk easily because we knew each other a bit before I arrived. He also said that he is also a member of the Anglican Church, so he has no choice but to follow the atmosphere and direction of the denomination, conservative church.

However, it was not without an evangelical seminary. For instance, Ridley Hall College was close to the College of Divinity. It was not a school affiliated

with Cambridge University, but it was a specialized institution for training Anglican pastors. Ridley Hall is also famous for the school where Rev. John Stott graduated. He studied there, was ordained as a pastor. It is also well known that he was invited to be the dean of the Ridley college when he was pastor at All Souls Church, and he refused to devote himself to the church ministry.

Oxford University also had a similar atmosphere to Cambridge University in the field of theology. As a result, churches are bound to be affected by this. It will be really difficult for students who have been educated at such universities and have seen sermons in such an atmosphere, to change their minds to ministry and church growth after graduation. In fact, I attended church services where pastors who graduated from such prestigious schools were in charge, and they were not able to escape the framework that they have learned at school. It was a sermon far from the growth of the church, and it was such a pastoral mindset. In a word, it was "teaching" rather than preaching.

As a result, churches that abandoned what they learned and studied on their own were revived and grown, and those churches were doing well because they were good rumored in the region, and hundreds of people attended the Sunday service, and the sermon was evangelical, impacted and motivated.

Oxford also had another Evangelical Seminary, which was Wycliffe Hall College. It was a school affiliated with Oxford University and was a specialized institution for training pastors. In other words, Ridley Hall College on the Cambridge and Wycliffe Hall College on the Oxford produced conservative pastors from the Church of England. I'm just talking about two schools.

On the other hand, Yale University Divinity School (YDS) in the States was very different from the United Kingdom. They were interested in the ministry in line with the church-centered and growth-oriented American atmosphere.

Anyway, looking at these two schools, I understood the church reality and

pastoral reality of the two countries, and what kind of education they receive has a great influence on their adaptation, and furthermore, I thought it more meaningful that ministry is not a study but a relationship with God.