

David VanDenburgh gave us a helpful perspective today on Christian coaching.

Especially, did I find benefit from the *Graph of Life* by Gary Collins which places the focus upon "coaching to the gap." The dynamics of Christian coaching is such a freeing style of working with people and building them up as leaders in their various specialties and gifts. David VanDenburgh's own personal testimony spoke volumes--investing time in leaders if he had his career to re-run. These committees and preaching appointments may gain political status, but building leaders (Eph 4:11-16) sits at the top of the heap for pastoral ministry as our vision.

The time that we took in the afternoon to go one-on-one seeking counsel for self-improvement in areas of weakness was quite helpful. I focused upon "challenging the process" and gleaned some helpful prescriptions for dealing with my dislike for change.

I did feel that other presenters took a hit by the comments of one classmate touting David VanDenburgh's approach as the most helpful. Personally, I have found the variety of presenters to be beneficial. Interaction in small groups is a nice break at times. Stories are helpful, personal reflection is helpful, breaks are beneficial, and lectures are rewarding.

Thanks for all the stimulating and motivating presentations over the past 3 years. I will definitely miss the interaction and fellowship with colleagues and professors next year.