

But he says He prevents his body from being dominant. The body is like clothing. Paul uses the figure of clothing. Clothing is necessary. We would find it difficult ~~to~~ in a cold climate to get along without clothing. We would find it difficult to walk very far if we did not have shoes. We need clothing. But some people make clothing the end of their existence. Some people spend so much time on thinking of clothing they have no time for anything else. It becomes dominant to them.

Paul speaks of this as my earthly house. This house when it ~~is~~ is gone I will have another house, a mansion in the heavens, a house not made with hands. A house is important, a house is vital, but if a house becomes the be all and end all of existence it is bad. In our western civilization the tendency has gone to the opposite extreme to that of the mendicant of the Middle Ages. People come to think that the body is all that matters -- the sensual pleasures are all that matters. Even those who are on a higher level who are not thinking of what is sensual but what is sensuous think of travel, think of music, think of poetry, think of other matters good in themselves, but if they make them spureme, if they make them the object of life they become harmful. The spirit and the body can easily become at enmity with each other if the body assumes an importance which it does not deserve. It is our duty to cherish our body, it is our duty to nourish our body and to take care of it. A Christian has no right to neglect his body. He has no right ~~to~~ to fail to take necessary precautions to keep it in good health and to keep it strong. It is a means. It is an instrument. It is not an end in itself. It is a good thing. We have a right to the enjoyment of the natural pleasures that our bodies can have. They are proper. It is right we should have them. I enjoy eating chocolate. It is a proper pleasure, but if I eat too much of it I lose my appetite for it. It is very easy for me to eat it. I have to watch myself. We all have to watch ourselves that we enjoy the pleasures that God has given us but that we do not let them slip out of their proper ~~sub~~ subordinate place.

If you want to get somewhere, if you want to go 100 miles, you've got a tremendous job if you are going to walk. With a car it is a ~~fairly~~ fairly simple thing to go 100 miles. A car is a wonderful help. It is an instrument, but if a car starts going off