

seeing visible results. Perhaps someone comes later and garnishes the results of their efforts. I visit up in N. Pennsylvania at a town where I was speaking. I stayed in a home. The people told me how that 25 years earlier there was a minister in that town who was there for about 2 years. After he'd preached in that town for 2 years he left and went to the middle west ~~xxxxxxx~~ somewhere and he'd never been back to this area. I can well ~~xxxxxx~~ imagine that during those 2 years that man was learning. He was improving himself. But he felt it was a barren period.

He looked at other churches where God had used him but here there was nothing to show for his activity. No evidence of souls led to Christ. No evidence of great growth in Christian life. His first 2 yrs. in that town, that was probably the least fruitful part of his ministry he would judge later on. But I found out 25 years later that this minister had had a Bible class there for young people. A young man in his late teens and a young woman in her late teens had attended that class. His opening up the Word of God had so stirred them that it had ~~xxxxxx~~ become the very basic central feature of their lives. Neither of them had opportunity for any extensive education. They married shortly after that and had 3 sons.

But during the subsequent years they held Bible classes in their home. They led many to faith in Christ. One of their sons is now a minister in Florida, having a very effective ministry ~~xxx~~ for Christ down there. I don't know how effective this minister may have been in his churches later on, but it's altogether possible that he accomplished through these two young people, through their ministry and through their activity and through that of their sons in later years, it is altogether possible that he did even more there than he did in other places where he got great recognition.

We do not know what the fruits are of our activities. God brings the fruits. Our part is to witness. Our part is to be faithful. Our part is to put Him first in all things and He promises that He will work His perfect will through us if we are faithful.

Then we notice after the ascension the glorious promise that was given They had said, Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel? He said, It's not for you to know the times or dates which the Father has set by His own authority. As they looked up to the sky as He was disappearing up there and the cloud received Him out of their sight, these men said to them, Men of ~~Galilee~~ Galilee, Why do you stand here looking into the sky, This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go into heaven. What evidence we have of the lives of the apostles show shows us that all through them they were constantly looking for His return. Constantly wondering when it would come. Constantly hoping that it might be soon.

Paul once said, ~~we remain~~ We who remain unto his coming. At other times he spoke in a way which suggested that he might already have gone to be with the Lord before He comes. We don't know the times or the seasons. But the Lord wants us to be aware of the fact and to look forward to His glorious promise He has given us. He wants us to realize that all the accomplishment we may have in this life