

all eternity. He does not want us to hold our heads in shame before anybody. He doesn't want us to be afraid to speak to anybody about their souls no matter what position or wealth or whatever else they may have. He wants us to have a consciousness of our work, but Oh how easy it is for us to get to the point where we think What will people think of me is tremendously important! And to get all worried and tied up and excited about whether they like what I'm doing or whether I have a particular title or a particular honor.

How easy it is to let these things assume a place they should not. You have not yet striven unto blood striving against sin. That's what he said to the people who received the book of Hebrews. This was written to people scattered all through the Roman Empire. It wasn't just to people in one place. It was written to all Christians, and it can be said of every one of us Are we striving unto blood in our struggle against sin, and are we realizing that the victory is secured through what Christ has done, and we can rest in Him who secured the victory. But there is no excuse for us simply letting down and letting sin take over in our lives.

So sanctification is an area that can be compared to a race and in which we need to do the preparation, we need to do the work, we need to do the thought that anyone will do who is preparing to enter a race.

Then there is the other sphere that is particularly important to those training in a theological seminary to service. In that the figure of the race is very apt. The sphere of service. You cannot spend three or four years preparing to do the Lord's work and then step out and do the Lord's work. If you are truly to do the Lord's work in the future, you must be serving Christ now. That should not take so much of your time now that it cuts down on your preparation. Your preparation is very vital, but if you neglect to serve Christ now it's a question whether you will succeed later.

When I was in seminary I remember a speaker saying, Crossing the ocean never made a missionary. If you're not serving Christ in this country and winning souls to him here, you need not expect to do it across the ocean. Service for Christ we need to be carrying along with our preparation. There are usually--I believe in this seminary most of our students are actively engaged in Christian service. But occasionally you find one who gets so wrapped up in other things that he puts off this service that he will be able he thinks to accomplish much for Christ later and does not need to be active in the service of the Lord now.

It is a race which is already under way. But of course we are particularly interested in preparing for service later, and in this preparation the figure of the race is very important. Are we doing what will enable us effectively to serve the Lord later? Are we preparing ourselves in such a way that we will make a success out of it? If a student has to work hard to get marks of C₊ and he works very hard and gets the C, ~~xxx~~ he is far better prepared to serve the Lord in a way that will receive God's favor