

I'm always happy when I see our students going forward. This morning I was particularly happy. Sometimes in chapel I've noticed a great crowd in the back and the front part half empty! Other times they will all be on that side and nobody here. This morning so many have moved forward and it is a pleasant feeling to have them right where you can talk to them instead of where you should send them a telegram.

This morning I wish to speak on a theme for which I will refer to a number of different verses. I shall start with a verse which I think summarizes the theme. I'm not going to deal with the context of it. It summarizes it so well I'm going to take just four words out of the middle of the verse simply as a summary of what I find taught much more clearly in other passages. So I'm not going to ask you to turn to Amos 4:12, but I'm going to take out of that verse the words: Prepare to meet your God."

I think it's very important to all of us--this idea. It is so easy to put things off and think of what you are going to do eventually. What you are going to do sometime. But I believe the Scripture is very clear that God wants us to look forward and think about what we should be doing in order to be ready for eventualities that will come later. Prepare to meet God.

Surely each of us should prepare to meet God every day. In prayer every day. We should be ready to meet him in every situation that comes up. We should be aware of His presence constantly. But I think we all feel we will meet him in a very special way at death.. Death seems a long way off to most of us. We never think of it as something that might come to us. Personally it seems to me that if == as if I've got at least another 20 years. Yet I know from the experience of others that I can't count on that. But not one of you can count on another 20 years. You never know when the Lord is going to call you into His presence. Then the question will be what have you accomplished with your life. Are you prepared to meet God?

We all believe as Christians in the deity of Christ. Christ is God and therefore we think particularly of meeting Him. We of course should meet him in prayer every day. We should be aware of His presence at all times. He said, Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the earth. We certainly should look forward in joy to meeting Him at death.

But there is to be another meeting with Christ. A meeting which may seem more real to us than the contact we have with Him now, when he is not visibly present with us. Suppose you knew that a loved one who had been away for a long time was coming on a certain day. You would get ready to meet them. I know my wife would probably spend three or four days recleaning the house although it had been thoroughly cleaned five days before! She would be getting everything ready for his coming. She would be preparing. She would not be caught unprepared when he came. There would be great anticipation.