

So I think it would be good for each of us to think, What is ahead? It is good for each of us to think, Would I be able to stand the pressure? Would I be sufficiently loyal to Christ that I would be ready in spite of whatever might happen to declare my faith? Would I be ready like so many of whom we have heard, and only a few of whom we have ever heard who have been ransomed out eastern Europe, but would ~~be~~ we be ready like the many to stand foursquare for Christ?

In Rumania when a minister was eventually ransomed and came to this country after being in prison for a time, the authorities came and offered to release him and allow him to preach in his church and he was allowed to preach anything he wanted and they would not interfere with him. Only, they said, You must tell us full details of anybody in your charge who seems unfavorable to the communist regime. I believe there are men who are truly preaching the Gospel in those countries who are giving information about individuals who are opposed to communism.

Would you be able to resist such an offer? When you have been cold and hungry and possibly subjected to torture and you were offered freedom. You were offered the good things of life and full opportunity to preach, so they would say, If only you would be willing to give information about people in that way.

Oh the temptations that come. The difficulties we may have to face. It is important in these days when we are free to get the training and the experience to learn to reach people for the Lord. To learn to show people how to grow in grace, to develop your own loyalty to Christ, your own knowledge of Him. ~~XXXXXX~~ Your own ability to accomplish for the Lord.

It is so easy for us to let little temporary objectives become primary to us. It is so easy for us to think about the next day or the next year. It is ~~for~~ easy for even the most true apparently evangelical minister to think, Where is the best salary? Where is the nicest place to live? Where is the greatest comfort? etc. And to excuse it all by saying, After all I'm thinking how I can have the best service for the Lord.

If you can have a service for the Lord that includes all these privileges, that is fine. But if you can have a better one and not have them all, if you are not ready to make that choice today, how can you say what you will do if it becomes a choice between more difficult things?

As I see the newspapers, and magazines, you will find plenty of evidence in them of the communist's intentions. You will find plenty of evidence in them of the accumulating communist power. Plenty of evidence of what the Cubans are doing and how they are treating their own people. How they are strengthening their own forces, how they are preparing.

People laugh and ridicule when Reagan speaks about their