

This being the first chapel of the new semester I think it would be well to look at the question: Why are we here? I'm interested in the reason why are we here in this seminary. I think even more important is why are we here in this world? I think we should give some thought to that. It is so easy for us to drift along with the mass of humanity. To think about making some money, about saving some money, about enjoying ourselves, about having decent meal, about many things that have their proper place in our lives, but let these things become the big thing so that we just slide along from one thing to another and when we get to the end of life, we see that our life has been largely wasted. So I think it is very important that we think about that.

Why are we here in this world? If we've been saved, if we have turned from sin, if we have turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, for salvation, why doesn't He take us to heaven? Why does He leave us here? What is the purpose of it all? That is important for everybody, it is also important in connection with your being here.

In these days hardly anybody comes to seminary without having to make considerable sacrifice, to do so. Years ago hardly any seminary charged any tuition. In those days prices of everything was much cheaper than it is now. I remember back in 1943 ~~was~~ one time in the opening chapel of the semester I remarked how glad I was that we had no draft doggers in the seminary. I said, There are many seminaries where you can go and do very little work, but are exempt from the draft. But I said, with the amount of work we require here we know that we have no draft doggers here! Two days later one of the new students came to me and he said, My conscience was hurt by your message and I have decided to volunteer! I don't know whether in his case it was good that he joined the army and spent two or three years fighting in the army, or whether it was a false impression of his conscience and actually the Lord had called him to come to seminary. I don't have to worry about that particular thing today.

Everyone one here has probably had to make considerable sacrifice to get here and it is therefore important to ask, Why are we here anyway?

Two passages of Scripture I like to call your attention to this morning. I will turn to one of them as we begin, and the other one I will look at a little later. The two I believe are closely connected together, at least in relation to this vital question, Why are we here? I would like to call your attention to the 17th ch. of the Gospel of John. Now there is a passage in Matthew and Luke, a very wonderful passage which gives the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, which unfortunately many people think they can rattle off as a series of words as if they get some value simply from rattling off words. The Lord's prayer is given us as a modle for our prayers. "After this manner pray ye. . . "