

God has indeed given our nation very great blessings. All too often we fail to pray for it as we should. We fail to do what we should to make our lives count in such a way that these blessings for our nation might be continued. Joel speaks in his third chapter of how multitudes, multitudes are in the valley of decision. There are indeed terrible things ahead if the interpretation of the Bible as most people understand it is true. But how we get through it if it comes in our life-time depends quite a bit on what we do today and how we prepare to make the decisions that will be necessary then.

Next month there will be many in this country of whom it can be said: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision" because all over this country individuals for whom day after day they have gone in routine fashion through 8 or 9 months will be turned out for summer vacation, and they have important decisions to make. How will they spend that time? How will you spend your summer? Will you spend it simply trying to get some money? That is necessary in most cases. But if that is all you do *this summer*, it will be a mistake.

You must of course get some relaxation. It is important after the year's work. It is a vital part of your preparation for next year that you get relaxed and rested ready to do your best during next year. There are also important decisions that have to be made. Will you just let everything you've done this year just lie fallow? And come back next fall and wonder what the Hebrew letters look like? Many a student has said, I'm going to put in a day every two or three weeks working on my Hebrew or working on my Greek. Maybe he does it once or twice. Then forgets it. I strongly recommend that you make a decision that on at least five days a week you will spend at least five minutes reading or reviewing Hebrew, and the same for Greek. If you do that it will increase by 10% the value you will get out of your work in those languages next year. Just five minutes a day for a few days every week and you would come back next fall ready to go ahead in those languages instead of having to have to start in again and pick up again some of all you have forgotten during the summer.

Are you this summer just going to forget your theology? Forget your Christian life and go out and make some money, to rest? Or are you going to serve the Lord during this summer? I'm always glad when I hear of a student who has devoted most of his time during the summer to the work of some phase of the work of the ministry. Some kind of Christian service. I'm glad for what you accomplish. But I am perhaps even more glad that if you do a great deal of Christian service during the summer your next year in seminary will mean many times as much for you as it would otherwise.

So often students go to class and come out and say, This is very interesting. But what good is it. But the student who has entered into Christian work during the summer and has gotten into a foretaste of what he is hoping to do in later years, see the relevance and feels the importance of the work in a way that one cannot who has not had some experience.

So for those of you whose course has a temporary interruption with the summer vacation, this summer the decisions you will make are important. That can be said more truly of those who are ready to finish their training. "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision." How can we decide the questions that have to be decided? What am I going to do immediately? How am I going to plan toward the work a year from now, five years from now? Should I work in this area or in this area? Can I work with these people or with these people? It is easy to get into a valley of depression as one thinks of the decisions that he needs to make.