

Chapel
000244

April 13, 1978

We See Through a Glass Darkly

1 Corinthians 13:12

I'd like to speak this morning on four rather well known verses. They are found in 1 Cor. 13. They are verses which every Christian has probably read or heard many times, but probably few have given much thought to these particular verses. Reading 1 Cor. 13:9-12. . . .

These vv. are quite appropriate to our present ? ?

About 100 years ago, maybe a little less, many people moved away from these great supernatural teachings of the Bible i.e. many ministers did, and began teaching that all that matters is that we keep the commandments and try to make a good world. This was the general liberal teaching which came to be taught in practically all of our larger churches, most of them, about a century ago. Then about 1920 there came a sudden change. This change to those who believed in Christianity, at first seemed very precious. I remember at the U. of Berlin, there was professor teaching this: build a good life, build a good society, etc. and forget all the supernaturalism, and people would go to sleep under their teaching. Then there came these men who were under the influence of Karl Barth. They spoke with vigor, vitality, and fire and you felt they really had something they wanted to get across. But what they wanted to get across, and which came to be called neo-orthodoxy and which overcame the older liberalism to quite an extent, was actually just as far or further away from real Christianity than the liberalism that they to a large extent displaced. Their view was, We don't know anything about God. ^{Except} ~~Excpe~~ that there is a great force, a tremendous something there that we call God, and sometimes he breaks through to us in some marvellous way and that's apt to happen when you read the Bible, so it's good to read the Bible! But the Bible is not the Word of God.