

desire to be well thought of. We have a craving that people should feel that we are going something worthwhile. Sometimes we even get excited because people like features about us that we've had nothing of producing; we've merely inherited them from our parents. It's a natural instinct to desire to be well liked and well thought of.

But if it becomes an end in itself. If it becomes so important in our actions that it interferes with our fulfilling God's purpose then what Paul said applies to it too. Food for the stomach and the stomach for ~~the~~ food but both will perish. We read in Mat. 9:36-38 that when Jesus saw the crowds He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless. He said, The harvest is plenteous but the workers are few.

What is your purpose in life? I heard of a man not long ago who spoke to a large group of successful business men. He said to them, I wish you would take a piece of paper and take two or three minutes and write on the paper, what is your ambition in life? When you come to die what would you like to look back at and say, I have succeeded in doing that. He said, It was most interesting to see how those men scratched their heads and how they sat writing nothing. How easy it is for us to go on day by day taking care of the next thing, doing that which gives us immediate pleasure. But do we look forward to the time when we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ? And he will say, The harvest was indeed plentiful. Did you cheer on the laborers? Did you help them by giving them a dollar now and then? Or did you participate as one of my laborers in accomplishing the task for which I leave my people in the world?

I've known a number of cases of young men who have graduated from Christian college or from a Bible school and have said, Why should I spend three years in seminary? I'm prepared now to serve the Lord. I can go out now and accomplish for Him. Maybe one year of Bible study will be enough. I've known of several people where such a person had spent a year and then had realized that he needed to get deeper into the Word and had then come and taken the 3 year course of training to really get into the Word and to get the food that God had for His people.

I feel bad about the men who fail to get the training that they should. But you know a thing that also makes me feel bad is that so often a person who says, Oh I don't need the 3 years, I don't ~~need~~ need the theological training, then he gets near the end and he says, Now where shall I go and study some more? What will I do next? God has called us to labor in His vineyard. There's nothing I enjoy more than ~~spending~~ spending my life in studying. The pleasure many people get out of various physical activities I have always gotten from studying. I love to study. But the question is, What does the Lord want us to do? What does He want us to get?

We here at Biblical are not thinking of ourselves as simply