

We have opportunities. Are we using them to the full? When the Lord calls us when we go to be with Him, we will look back, and we'll say, Do you remember that person you chatted with that time? You discussed all kinds of things with him, but you never mentioned Christ. You never mentioned to him his need of a Saviour. That man was just ripe to receive the Lord. Just a word from you would have reached him. O, somebody else would reach him later. But you could have done it. You had the opportunity and you didn't do it. Missed opportunities!

We constantly think, I'll do this when I get time. I'll do that. I could lay out 50 years of study and writing that I'd like to do. I'm afraid the Lord won't give me that much more time. I know what I would like to do and I'm sure all of you do too. Are we utilizing our time? Are we realizing that time doesn't just go on and on and on and on as people thought in the U.S. Navy and in the Army and in the organizations and as the people in the country here did. When suddenly on that morning in 1941 our whole lives were changed by that sudden cataclysm.

During the next four years life was very different from what it had been heretofore. During 1944 it was felt that the only possible way the war could be won was to take every young man and put him in the army if he was possibly physically able to accomplish anything. Up to that time our students had been free from the draft. If they were seminary students or if they were in a college for two years before they would come. The same was true of medical students.

Then it was announced in 1944 that beginning on July 1 that all young men who were not actively in a theological school or in a medical school, would be drafted. We went and talked to one of the officers in charge, and he said, Yes, I realize the situation but we need the young men. We've got to have them. It's hopeless if we don't. You can well imagine that we expected to have no students the next fall, if all were taken before. So on the last day of June our seminary and just about every seminary in the country began a summer school. That's the only summer school we've ever had in this institution == in any institution I've ever been connected with. That is to require summer school

Other seminaries put themselves on an accelerated basis and went right straight through the year from then till the end of the war. I argued strongly against that. I believe that if we do not take time for recreation we cannot accomplish what we should, and I feel that with a certain amount of change and a certain amount of rest our students were able to learn more and accomplish more later than those who went right straight thru on an accelerated basis until the end of the war.

Things were nip and tuck then for a time as to how it would all turn out. But the beginning of it was sudden, unexpected to most of us. Something we never could have foreseen. As we look ahead for each of us we cannot tell what is ahead, in our lives. We cannot tell how long the Lord will give us health and strength. How long He will give us life. Changes occur suddenly.