

desiring to serve God is a picture which is ~~xxx~~ very attractive and we only wish he had kept on as he ~~star~~ted. There is a tremendous warning for us there. God wants us to have a right attitude. ~~xxxxx~~ Praise the Lord for any of you who do have and let us hope you all will receive it if you do not. But in His ~~xxx~~ sight the vital question, do you keep it up? Do you go forward or do you drift Back? I have never seen a group of this size anywhere no matter how zealous, no matter how pious, no matter how devoted to the Lord, I've never seen a group of this size of which it was not true that about thirty or forty years later there were some in the group who had found a way after their longing for human pride or for personal advantage of some sort and had become enemies of the gospel and who were causing great injury to the cause of Christ. You cannot tell by what a man says what he is going to do thirty or forty years from now. No one is ~~going to~~ ^{can} guarantee what we are going to be. It is only as we keep looking to God to keep us in the line of His ~~xxxxx~~ purpose that our lives will continue to amount to anything for Him. I remember some years ago I saw how many men of ~~xxx~~ such great promise had utterly fallen by the wayside. I remember once becoming so pessimistic that I said, "I don't believe that I can guarantee staying true to the faith until he is dead." Now that is rather extreme perhaps but there are a minority that do that. It is terrible the way that Satan by his devices succeeds in luring one man and another away. I remember hearing Dr. R. A. Torrey telling of an ~~xxx~~ experience he had once. He said, one day when he was of ~~xxxxx~~ middle age a man said to him, "Torrey, you and I are the two most important figures in Christian work in America today." And Torrey turned to him and he said to him, "Don't you ever say such a thing as that. Don't you ever think it. If you get to thinking about whether you are important in God's work or not or whether you are ~~xxxxx~~ prominent in it or whether you are necessary to the work of God, God can lay you on the shelf so completely that you will never be heard of again." He said the remarkable thing was that just two years after that, that man was laid on the shelf so completely that no one even thought of him any longer as a Christian worker. He was completely out of the