

other, you get out in life and what are you going to do? There is the temptation to indolence, if you don't have an objective, a goal, a purpose before you to which you are ready to run, that you will obtain. And nowhere is there such a temptation to idleness, laziness, as in the Christian ministry. This is of course particularly true if you are in an old well-established denomination, or if you are in an endowed institution of some sort. I knew students who have graduated from seminary with me, who went out and became pastor of a country church somewhere where they had an old minister who had been there for 50 years, and the people had slept ~~through~~ through his sermons for the last twenty years, and a young fellow with a little life and energy, all he had to do was get up and stand in front of them and they thought it was ~~very~~ wonderful. And some of these fellows went and they put in a half an hour the night before working up a little sermon with a couple of interesting anecdotes in it, and people told them it was the greatest thing they had ever heard in their life. And they vegetated through ten years in this little church somewhere, and at the end of the ten years they were no more ready to serve the Lord effectively in a larger place than they had been when they came. And the people were satisfied while they were there. But they had not run so as to obtain. They had accomplished nothing ~~there~~ then, and they were not ready to accomplish anything thereafter. It is possible for a person to go out under a mission board, and to get to a little town somewhere in a distant land and sit down there, and to enjoy yourself, and perhaps to put in so much time, and so much energy in trying to make up there for the things that you have in this country that you don't have there, that you don't much time to make any impact on the life there, or on the people there. There are missionaries who do that. There are people in all phases of Christian work who are so running that they are obtaining nothing, and it is a great temptation in the ministry, and it is one of the unfortunate things about our education system, that you are now under direction. Do this today, do this tomorrow, do this thereafter, and then you get out and you are under little direction. And the people don't know when they hear your sermon whether you put an hour's work on it, or whether you put fifty hours' work on it. Maybe they will know after you have preached for five years. Maybe after you have preached for ten