

ever play chess.

I don't know how many of you have ~~X~~ ~~XXX~~. I'm not much of a judge but when I have played I've noticed this: In the early part of the game, "What shall I do now? Shall I move this ^{man} ~~XXXXX~~ or this ^{man} ~~XXXXX~~ or shall I move this ^{man} ~~XXXXX~~? Maybe I could get an advantage with this or maybe I could get an advantage with this?" And I tend to play for immediate advantage. And I try this and I try that and then it gets in the latter part of the game and here's a ~~XXX~~ situation - if only I had castled earlier that rook would be in just the position to do this and now I can't do it. If only I had moved that queen up to that place earlier when I had plenty of time it would be in a position now to make a decisive attack. If only I had done this earlier I would be in a sound protected position there. Now he comes in and I haven't time to get these men over and protect them. "While thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone." There will be spiritual crises in your life. There will be situations where it is important to know the Lord, it is important to be so close to him in your spiritual life that you can draw on the resources he has for you to meet the great situation, the great stress in which you find yourself. When you find yourself there there will be those who will just walk through it with little difficulty because for years they have been keeping up their time with the Lord, they've been keeping up their devotional life, they've been studying the Word, they've been learning to live close to the Lord, and when the crisis comes they're ready. There will be others who will find, "Oh, if only we had more time now to develop that spiritual life, that devotional life that I could so easily have developed all through. Oh, this situation is this man's fault, it's this man's fault - no it isn't, it's your fault! "As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Lost the opportunity. That is true of the spiritual things of our Lord. It is true of the mental things, the intellectual, the studies. Now you start your ministry, "Oh, I've got to take care of this detail, this detail, I've got to see this person and this person." All that is important but if you don't watch out the week's gone by and all of a sudden you get busy for Sunday sermons and maybe you've done that hastily. But set up a program and keep up your study, take your subjects and go through them day by day. Start in during the summer - don't wait till you graduate. Take a certain amount of time for study every day on a certain subject. Take up one subject, take another, take another. Keep them up and do more of them. Develop your intellectual life and your understanding. And