

He's writing this toward the end of his life, and at the end of his life he is saying, I have fought a good fight

Well, after all what have we called this service tonight? We have called it a commencement. We don't call it an end. We call it a commencement. The class deserves congratulation for the point to which it has attained, but it is all preparation for what continues on. In this passage which was read tonight, v. 14 says, But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and he congratulates Timothy that he knows the Holy Scriptures that are able to make him wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could know that everyone that graduates from a Christian High School will continue, and that 10 years from now they will be just as earnestly === just as firm in their Christian faith as they seem to be today. Wouldn't that be wonderful? But alas the passage told us that the time is coming when all that believe who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse. It is the sad experience in any Christian school that a few years later to see how some have fallen by the wayside here and there.

Paul had this in mind in ch. 2, in v.10 he said, Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world. How many of our graduates here are going to be such that 10 yrs. from now it will be necessary to say, They have forsaken the faith having loved this present world. The present world has an attraction today. We have material things such as the world has never seen before. On every hand there is the attraction of getting ahead, and getting all these good things that there are in life. There are such opportunities to fellows graduating from college today are starting out with salaries that when I was a boy people hardly got till the end of their lives. The opportunities are tremendous. But are you going to find yourselves forsaking Christ because you have loved this present world. Or are these things going to be secondary because you follow on, continued on in the things you have learned.

Persecution will come if you stand by your faith. Evil men will wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. Difficult times were predicted in the Word of God and surely we have them today. As you read our papers, as you see what is happening in our country you can't help wondering how people can be so blind. They talk about how the Soviet Union is mellowing, and we can have an understanding with them. Have people forgotten already that just last year the Communist leaders in Czechoslovakia began to give the slightest bit of freedom of expression to people, began to give them just a little opportunity of expressing their own desires about their lives. And the great Russian army came marching in and put a complete end to the slightest freedom of thought. That force there which crushed the life out of those grand people of Czechoslovakia desires to crush it out of the entire world if it can. We are planning to send a man to stand on the moon, and the Russians are spending billions and billions of dollars planning satellites to go around the world to drop bombs on us and destroy us. They have built a great ABM system to protect their land from us, but we have people in our country who object to a small system to defend our ability to withstand an attack from them.