

a. As to Salvation. The danger of turning aside. You remember the parable the Lord told of how some of the seed fell in rocky soil and it sprang up quickly and it looked very promising, but it had no real root and soon when persecution came, when difficulties came it withered away. In 2 Cor. 13:5 Paul said, Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. Prove your own selves. Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. Are you a Christian because you have been persuaded to be? Because you heard someone give a very pleasant talk, a very attractive talk? Someone give some good arguments, someone persuaded you and therefore you became a Christian? Are you a Christian because of association with other people whom you like? Association with people whose morals you like? Whose general attitude you like, and you enjoy being with them and you've gone along with them as they have gone along, and headed for Christian service? Or are you a Christian because of conviction, because of conviction wrought by the H.S. , because of conviction that you know that God has turned you from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God? We need constantly to bring that question to the people to whom we minister. And we need to think of it ourselves enough to be sure that we are so rooted in the knowledge of Christ that nothing could ever cause us to turn aside even for a time. O, if we truly have been saved by the H.S., if He truly has brought us into the kingdom of God we cannot be lost. But if we turn aside, what proof is there then that we ever were truly saved? that we ever truly did believe in Him? Let us make absolutely certain of our convictions. Let us examine ourselves whether we are in the faith. If we have any question let us be sure that we bow before the Lord and ask Him to search our hearts , and show us whether we have truly turned from sin and truly belong to him.

b. As to sanctification. Those who truly are saved, some are saved in the end as though by fire. Think how we will feel throughout all eternity if we have failed to take advantage of the opportunity for our sanctification that we have here in this life. God wants us to become sanctified in this life. That ~~is~~ is he wants us to grow into the image of Christ. He wants us to learn what are the matters within us that need to be changed and altered and brought into line with His purposes for us. Paul said in Heb. 12 after that wonderful chapter about faith, Paul said, Wherefore we also are compassed about with so