

as God wants us to be fitted to be such that he can rejoice in through all eternity.

And yet our service also is a very important matter.

c. As to service. Why do you want to go into Christian service. Is it because somebody has persuaded you. I went once and was a roommate at a conference with a man who was a student in a liberal theological seminary. I was not yet in seminary myself then. And this fellow told me how he had come to give up all the ideas of his childhood. It didn't seem to me he believed in hardly anything, but he was training for the ministry. And I said, Why do you train for the ministry? Well he said, It's just psychology. He said, When I was a boy we used to have ministers in our church who would say if God calls you to his service, don't you turn aside. If God calls you to be a minister, don't you fail to follow his leading. And he said that made such an effect on my mind I can't get away from it. So he said, I'm going into the ministry, but I know it is just psychology. And he said, I feel I'll be able to do some good and help people to live better lives. It will be worth while, but he said, that's the reason I'm doing it. It was persuasion that led him to go into it. Well I say if a person is going to tear down faith instead of building it up it's far better that he should not go into any line of Christian work. But as to those who truly believe in the Lord, are we going into Christian service because somebody has persuaded us? Are we going simply because of association with others or do we have a conviction? Well I say, every Christian should have a conviction. Every Christian is called to Christian service. God leaves us here in this world in order to serve Him. He leaves us here after we believe in Christ in order that we may lead other souls to a knowledge of salvation. He leaves us here in order that we may study His Word and may help others in their problems in life. God calls everyone to Christian service. Paul said, Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. Paul said that because the Holy Spirit had worked in his heart the feeling that he would be utterly miserable if he did not preach the gospel. And that is the feeling that every Christian ought to have. Woe is me if I do not accomplish the work that the Lord wants me to accomplish. I don't mean of course that every Christian should be a minister or a missionary. I don't mean that every Christian should expect that he will receive his living from other Christians giving donations that will go to him. In many cases it is God's will that we should earn our living in some other way.