

(thing) salvation must always be emphasized. I have occasionally heard a sermon which I thought was very excellent from the second point but which said nothing about the first. And I feel that whenever one preaches you don't know who there may be there who does not know the Lord. I question whether a talk is really a Christian sermon if there does not somewhere in the course of that message be a clear mention of what the gospel is and how one can be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not always have to preach evangelistic sermons by any means; we need many other types of sermons. But there is no reason why every sermon cannot bring out the Gospel somewhere in the course of the sermon. Without the first step the rest is meaningless. As I say I have occasionally heard sermons which simply took the Gospel for granted and went on from there, given to people who knew nothing about the Gospel, and they got nothing of course from it. There, you can never make vegetables grow by watering and tilling and digging out weeds and so on if you don't first plant the seed. We need both phases.

But now these two are important and very important, and we immediately said, Yes, but where should I serve the Lord? What kind of work should I do for the Lord? There are cases where God makes this perfectly clear to you. There are many cases where He does not. Where He leaves it to you to study what your gifts are, what the opportunities are, what the situations are, and how you can best fit into these situations.

But there is a third element in this understanding the will of God that I believe in the case of Christians is extremely important for us properly to understand. I call your attention now to Ephesians again. We looked at Eph. 4:11-16 and we read: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith . . ." This is why we have these gifts -- for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the