

If we can only do away with the oppressors. If we could only get all money evenly distributed so everyone could all have an equal amount! If we can only have a perfect system established then everything is going to be wonderful on earth. This is the one thing that in the thinking of many of them took the place of the place of the enthusiasm and the emotion that should have gone into winning souls for eternity.

You know an interesting thing I've observed: if you take any real social advance, you take any improvement in general condition of life, and you'll find that the ones who have been most influential in actually accomplishing it have been individuals who had been saved through Christ and who were truly trying to serve Him. Those who do not believe in Christ talk about improving social conditions; they talk about making great general improvements in the condition of society, but specific improvements that really do good you will nearly always find true believers nearly always in the heart of them.

But this was one of the two great substitutes for the emotional enthusiasm that comes from a real knowledge of Christ. Now the other direction in which this feeling went was what is today called ecumenism. It is true to some extent that you found Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, more interested in making other people accept their particular views on matters on which the Scripture does not speak clearly, than on winning souls to the Lord. I don't think that was true of the great majority at all. But there were individuals who felt that way.

So the ecumenists used to tell the story: There were three churches on adjoining corners. And one would be singing, Will there be any stars in my crown? The second would be singing, No not One! The third would be singing, That will be glory for me! Now I don't know whether that ever actually happened, but it is true that people are all too ready to become enthused about matters in which their particular group holds particular views on ~~which~~ which other equally Christian people may have a different idea. Instead of putting their great stress on the duty to which God has called us of winning souls from darkness to light and winning them to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But ~~the~~ the ecumenists these men who had lost their real belief in the great central points of the gospel, found a second point for the exertion of their emotional feeling in this to get the church together. And as the denominations were getting more and more large agencies, and agencies for foreign missions, an agency for home missions, an agency for this and that, agencies for social work, agencies for all sorts of things. And those who were in these agencies more and more felt, Why should ~~we~~ we be carrying on this effort and these other people carrying it on separately? Why don't we get together?

I was on a train one time. In a way I like the trains we had more than the present period we are in of airplanes. We save lots of time, but in those days there was a leisurelyness as we sat in the lounge car of the train and you had nothing particularly to do in the evening as you sat there, as the train rushed through the night,