

you were going to be made into a decent little cottage, but he's building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." I thought those were tremendous quotations Coulson had at the beginning of these chapters.

Jesus said, No man who puts his hand to the plow ..."
There is surely a sense in which everyone of us has put his hand to the plow to be saved, accepting Christ as our Saviour. We have begun a long course of progress. But this verse is speaking specifically about Christian service. Everyone whom we receive as a student at the seminary tells us that he feels God has called him to Christian service of one sort or another. So I think we can say, Everyone who has come to the seminary has put his hand to the plow. Service is the == Service should certainly be a part of the life of every saved person.

But we are particularly interested in the service to which God calls us. In Eph. 4 we have a few statements about the service God wants us to have. In Eph. 4:11, "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers . . . to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up . . ." Then vv. 15-16, "Speaking the truth in love we will in all things grow up unto him that is the head that is Christ from Him the whole body joined together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." So we have put our hands to the plow certainly whether God leads us to what is called full-time Christian service or not.

Whether God leads us to be pastors or teachers or missionaries or whatever, certainly a part, and a primary part of our ambition in life should be to help in the growth of Christ's body so that all the parts of the body build themselves, are built up together in love, and each part does its work.

So every Christian has a vital part to perform in the growth of the body. What a tremendous need there is for growth of the body. In Jn. 4:35-36 our Lord spoke to the disciples and said, "Do not say four months more and then the harvest; open your eyes and look at the fields. The field is ripe for the harvest." How large a proportion of the people in the world do you think really know Christ as Saviour? A mighty small part. There are many real Christians in China. Many have gone through persecutions, suffering for the cause of Christ. The overwhelming majority who truly believe in Christ doubtless have been killed or have spent long terms in prison, but there are many who have truly believed in Him who have not thus lost their lives. There are others who have been won to Christ by those who have come out from the prison. Yet they are a very small part of the whole.

How many are there in Afganistan who know Christ? How many in Iran? How many in the greater part of the world? How many are there in the U.S.A. who truly know Christ? There are a great many people who are members of churches. I doubt if half of them attend regularly. But of all the people in the U.S.A. who would say