

they believe in God--and that is far from being the total population--how many of them really know Christ? The world, the field, is white unto harvest. We have set out ~~our~~ hand to the plow in order to serve the Lord in enlarging his body, in extending his work. In order to do so we must extend it within ourselves, each of us.

In 2 Cor. 10:5, there is a familiar verse that we could think of over and over because it represents what we need to do in relation to ourselves. There we read that the weapons of our warfare should be casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. What demands God makes upon us! Salvation is free, but we who believe in Christ, we are expected to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

We have put our hand to the plow and God is pleased and happy that we have done so. But you'll notice the verse does not say, Blessed is everyone that puts his hands to the plow! Thank God for these people who are ready to follow Christ. The preceding vv. told of some who said they would follow Him anywhere, but who He evidently seeing the heart saw there was something lacking. That they were thinking superficially, stirred by a wonderful personality but not really ready to serve Him to the full.

In this verse which we are stressing today(Lk.9:62), he said, "No one who puts his hands to the plow and looks back is fit for the service in the kingdom of God." Who looks back! At this time of year we're apt to get spring fever! At this time of year we're apt to find it difficult to stick to the books, and to review the Greek and Hebrew and to try to learn the things God wants us to about His will. About this time of the year we are beginning to feel weary and wonder if it's all worthwhile.

Many are wondering if they need another year. If they should get another year. Whether they should continue their course. But Jesus said, No one who puts his hands to the plow and looks back is fit for the service in the kingdom of God. That is something that besets many students. Particularly at this time of the year. The beginning to wonder if they shouldn't look back. It will not end with your seminary course. When you finish you will not then say, I have now accomplished. God is well pleased with me.

Then of all times there is the temptation to say, Who is going to support me now? Where is the job that will be a good living immediately where I can give out the Word of God. Well, if nobody offers you one maybe you'd better continue with a secular job for a while. Maybe you'd better see if you can do something in business and get some money and get ahead a little, and then eventually you will enter the work of Christ! And those who enter the pastorate, the stress comes time after time in later days. The urge to look back. There will be discouragements. You can be sure. Things will go forward wonderfully in one area, and in another area you seem blocked.