

what they were endeavoring to do, then when they finished and went off they were weak and right there they were --- the incentives to vile sin, the incentives to utter weakness wickedness could come over them with such force that it took great prayer and the power of God to deliver them.

I have great sympathy when I hear of some earnest, successful, effective Christian worker who has fallen into sin. Because the more you stand for the Lord, the more you accomplish for Him the more anxious Satan will be to lead you astray. One cannot teach as I have for 50 years in theological seminaries without occasionally hearing of cases where some who have been very prominent have fallen into gross sin. We must be aware of Satan's wiles and his plans which will do his best to wreck our service for Christ.

I think in this connection that perhaps I should say a word about marriage. It is proper and natural for most people to be married. That is certainly God's will for most, though certainly for some it is God's plan they should not marry but should devote their energies into His work. God knows the future and I don't think any of us should think we can lay out our plans for the future to the extent of knowing as young people that we are in that latter category.

For most of us in our late teens and twenties the urges connected with marriage become sometimes almost beyond what we can stand. For one in those years there is also that of getting a tremendous fascination for one whom often you hardly know, and often when you do get to know them you find they are utterly different from the picture you have in your mind. I believe it is very important for those that are not married that they go very slow, that they get to really know a person and know everything they can about their antecedents before they seriously consider entering into the bonds of marriage.

Oh how the devil likes to destroy a Christian's accomplishments by getting them married to the wrong person. My roommate in seminary went up to Canada and worked for a time and when he came back he told me of meeting an elderly minister there who told how his wife had periods when her minds seemed to go beserk, and in these times she would report that he was out of his mind. On two or three of these occasions he was carted off to the insane asylum. When he would tell people that, "I'm alright, she's the one who is out of her mind." That they would say, That's what they all say!

He described his life and what he'd gone through to this friend of mine, and my friend said he said to me, Yet I loved her so much, and she meant so much to me that in spite of all I went through I would do it all over again. I would marry her still if I had my life to live over." That is real devotion to a person. But I don't think he accomplished for the Lord anything like what he could have if he had searched that woman's antecedents, her friends, her background. If he had gotten to really know her before he married her.