

made a missionary. God wants you to prepare here for future service but he wants you to be effectively serving the Lord right now. You are preparing for the future, but you are building right now. With what are you building? Are you building with gold, silver, costly stones? Or are you building with wood, hay, stubble? The fire will test and see what is what is solid, what is lasting.

Here the double figure comes in again. We are the field, and we are the workers. We are part of the building, and we are also workers. So you have a responsibility for what you are building in others and every student here has a responsibility for the input (influence) you are having on other students, and on those whom you see day by day. You are building something into their lives. Are you building gold, silver, and costly stones? Or are you building wood, hay and stubble.

But you are also building in yourselves. You are part of God's building. Are you building in yourselves habits, attitudes, that are gold, silver, precious stones? Or are you building that which is temporal and wood, hay, and stubble? There is no other foundation except that which has been laid: the Lord Jesus Christ. And we must look to Him at every step of the process. But we must remember that the judgment day is coming when we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ and when he looks over what you are doing right today.

He doesn't look over it for sin so much because if you truly belong to Him you are doing your best to avoid sin, and your sins past, present, and future has been laid on Christ who bore the penalty at Calvary. But he'll look particularly at the work which you are doing. Are you building in yourselves the fruit of the Spirit? Are you building attitudes of unselfishness? Attitudes of taking care of that which will affect others, or that which will be helpful to them, or to avoid that which would be injurious to others? Are you building in yourselves the knowledge of Christ, the knowledge of His Word in everything you do? Are you building in others a love for Christ? A love for His Word?

day by day here and now that which is pleasing to Christ or that which is displeasing to Him. Oh may God enable us each one to build gold, silver, precious stones. May he enable us to avoid that which is but to build ourselves and build our families, to build even those with whom we have the most temporary contacts these qualities, and above all to Jesus Christ the only foundation apart from whom nothing can be done that pleases God.

O God our Father we thank you that we are both builders along with and also apart of the building, part of the field. Help us not to be careless or lazy in building but to be moving forward with diligence not merely accomplish for today of preparation for the judgment ahead. Enable us, Our Father, to realize we are constantly building. Help us to build that which will last. Help us with your help to build into ourselves those characteristics that will be pleasing to Christ, and to be your instrument not merely in the great efforts that we work so hard to accomplish but often in the little incidental that are far greater that we realize to build into others gold, silver, costly stones. We ask in Jesus Name. Amen.