

I'd like to read to you from 1 Cor. the third chapter, verses ten to fifteen(reading text.) For most of you the appearance before the Judgment Seat of Christ seems a long way away. I confess it seems a long way away for me too. Yet we have to admit that anyone of us may be called into His presence very soon.

Just last weekend I saw a man in Chicago whom I'd not seen for 10 years. I'd seem him 10 years ago as a young man full of vigor well-trained, serving the Lord most effectively. I was told just before I saw him last time that in a routine examination he has been informed that he has cancer. Whether he will have another 10 or 15 years, or whether another 10 or 15 weeks, who knows? None of us knows how soon we may be called before the judgment seat of Christ.

Of course, if we have believed in Him for salvation; if we have put our faith in Him, we do not need to fear. We know that we are safe through all eternity. That our sins are laid upon Christ. Even so, for the Christian that is an awesome thought. We are to appear before the judgment seat of Christ. It is a thought of joy because we are to see Him who gave His life for us to fill us with happiness. Yet, as Paul says here, we are building. We are all of us building. We are building something. in our lives whether they be short or long.

Are we building gold, silver, costly things? Or are we building wood, hay, and straw? The fire will reveal what we've done. We will then find out whether our time here on earth has been worthwhile or whether it has not been worthwhile.

John 4:34-35 tells us how Jesus said, My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish his work. Do not say four months and then the harvest. I say open your eyes and look at the fields for they are ripe for harvest." In Mat. 9:36-38 we find him making a very similar statement. "When he saw the crowd he had compassion on them because they were harrassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field." The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. If that statement was ever true how true it is today.

All through the world today, people are living in anxiety and uncertainty. All over the world people are longing for something and they don't know what it is. Those of us who know the Lord Jesus Christ, those of us who understand the teachings of His Word have the answer to their problem. The harvest is plentiful, but the ~~laborers~~ ~~laborers~~ laborers are few. One hundred years ago some may have question whether this applies to the U.S.A. I ~~think~~ think they would have been false in questioning it . I think it would be true even then. But it is far more true today than it was then. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 60,000 people every years over the last 10 years have left the United Presby. Church.