

I'm thinking more this morning of our own personal situation. None of us know what may be ahead for us. We never know when calamity will strike. You never know when your nation will be struck. You never know when an individual may be struck. You never know when some catastrophe will come in your own family. In those situations the person who does not know the Lord is in a truly bad situation.

I was greatly pleased in reading the book called Daws the life story of the founder of the navigators. To read how when a few years later some of these battle ships were lifted up from the bottom of the harbor, and they found the bodies of some of the sailors there they found in some of the rooms some of the navigators there with their Bibles open and others gathered around them as they had been that morning when the attack came. How wonderful it was that these people who were about to be ushered into eternity were having the Word of God presented to them just when the calamity came.

I think Pearl Harbor Day is a time for us all to realize that our days may be short. Our times of service to the Lord may be long, or may be short. Nobody knows. But there is always the possibility of sudden calamity, of a sudden end to it. The Lord is not going to ask us, How many good times did you have? What good marks did you make? How much were you praised during your time here? He's going to ask, What did you do for Christ? How many souls did you reach for Him? How much were you able to do for Him in talking with Christians to help them grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord? How many lost opportunities have you had?

Everyone of us has had lost opportunities. I'm sure that one lost opportunity every seminary student will feel sometime is the opportunity when you were here to discuss problems with individuals who had spent much time studying different problems. Had spent time studying various parts of the Bible, and could perhaps have given you a clue or an answer to some problem that barely occurred to you in the course of your preparation or earlier study. But that sometime later you find yourself in the situation where, If only I had the chance to discuss this and to go into depths of it with somebody who has gone into it already and who has thought it through during the years. Now I don't have that access.

How much we all feel as we look back about wasted opportunities. I remember one time when I was in seminary in one of my first years of teaching, a young man in seminary who was == I was trying to persuade to teach a S.S. class. He was interested in delving deep into various problems, but he didn't feel he wanted to spend time teaching a S.S. class. We tried to point out to him the importance of it. But he wouldn't listen. He wasn't interested. After he graduated he became pastor of a church in N.W. Canada. We got a letter from him. He said, I'd like to make some suggestions about the seminary course. He said, I find here I don't know how to organize a S.S. or how to go about handling problems of the S.S. Why ~~wasn't~~ wasn't I instructed more on this at the seminary? Well, I'm sure he had had some information ~~be~~ about it in classes but what he needed was some practical experience. We had been urging him to get it. That was the very thing where he felt his great lack ~~was~~ was later on.