

a beautiful historical discourse. You could get by with that sort of thing when I was a boy. Today, if you don't preach the Word of God, and if you don't have an endowed church of which I don't think many are looking for people with your particular background, people will not come to your services.

The vital question is not, How can you get people to come to your service? The question is what do you give them when they come? Paul said to Timothy, He said, Do the work of an evangelist. Personally I question whether a sermon is a Christian sermon if it does not somewhere in the course of it tell of the way of salvation. God has sent us out as heralds to proclaim his wonderful message of peace, of mercy, of help. It is your task to win people to Christ. Oh, what an opportunity God has given you. We have absolute freedom in this country to preach the Word. There is nothing to interfere with your going out and telling people how to be saved.

I'm not at all sure it will always be that way. I'm not sure that America deserves--the way so many have turned away from God. The way God has been driven out of our schools. The way that in so many ways the Word of God has been pushed aside, I'm not sure we deserve God's favor. I'm not sure how much longer we will have it. But God has trained you and prepared you to buy up the time and use it to preach the Word of God in order to win sinners to salvation.

Of course when they are saved they are only babes, they are only babes in Christ. I must say that as I have read the Word of God for 60 years, 70 years in face, I still consider myself as a babe in the things of the Lord. There is so much more I need to learn. There is so much more I need to learn of God's grace, of God's power, of God's wisdom, and above all of God's love. God calls you to go out and preach His Word. He calls you to go and shepherd His people. But even more, He calls you to develop in yourself those spiritual values that He wants to give you, which you can develop only through fellowship with Christ and study of His Word.

Sometimes you hear people say, Why should I speak about Christ, I will live a Christian life and that's a witness to Christ. It is not unless you speak about it. Your life is a witness to what you say. If you don't speak the Word of Christ no matter how good you might be, you won't accomplish much for the Lord. You need to present God's Word in your life and in your words, and the life will be a sounding board for your words. You need both.

God has called every Christian to go out into all the world and to preach the Gospel. I find a great divergence, a great extreme people go by what we mean by the world. Many people forget all that lies ~~outside~~ outside the U.S.A. This tremendous number of people, millions of whom have never heard of Jesus Christ. God wants many of us to go out as foreign missionaries, and to go out to the uttermost parts of the earth and present the Word of Christ. But those who stay here He wants you to remember constantly the far flung work of the Gospel.

On the other hand there are those who think you are not truly a Christian worker if you are not going out to the foreign field. One extreme is just as bad as the other. The field is the world, and wherever you are God wants you to be serving Him. It isn't where you are that matters; it's what you do where you are.