

through the middle ages, and today of course in some ways in more ways than in the middle ages, but the orders of monks did not exist until the 500 years after the time of Christ. Now it depends what you are going to call the early church, perhaps in the light of eternity we are in the early church today. But by the early church we mean that which was directly of the impression of Christ and the apostles, 500 years is a long time afterwards, it is as far after, now it is a hundred years after the time of the reformation it is a very long period. (question) Well we noticed something of the life of St. Benedict, not much different of the life of ~~the~~ many of the hermits in so far as his personal life is concerned. People who are discussed at the world ~~life~~ in its wickedness and simply said I am going to get out of it altogether and there were individuals who done this for a couple of centuries before. And it also seems very nice that to say that let's get out of the world let's just forget it and leave it and devote ourselves entirely to the Lord. Now the Lord could if He had chosen as soon as we are converted, he could have chosen that we should immediately transport to heaven, we are saved out of this wicked world, we are born again in His kingdom and we could go immediately to His kingdom if he so chooses. That is not what he has chosen to do, ~~but~~ for two reasons why I believe he has not so chosen. One is this that after we are converted he has a greater part which he desires played in our preparation for heaven. It is his desire that we should learn many lessons in life in this world, and it is his desire that we should learn to know him and love him under the imperfect conditions of this world before that time we see him like he is and go to be with him, and so we have a very definite and vital purpose in all our training, leaving us upon the earth after we are his and no one can say that this is the most important reason why we are left upon this earth. It is an extremely ~~reason~~ important reason. But there is another reason which we can not but feel is also important and that is that he leaves us here to do a work. He leaves us here to have an impact on our world. He leaves us here to reach others for him, to show others how to grow in grace and in the knowledge of