

If we had time to go through the history of churches of all denominations, in the United States, over the last fifty years, and to see the instances where there have been violent fights over the question of who owns the church property, churches ~~padlocked~~ padlocked. I have known of several of them in Penna. One group would come in and have a church padlocked, get an injunction, there would be a big fight over the question ~~xxxxxxx~~ of who owned the property.

Well, it is easy to say, we are not interested in such matters. We are going to serve the Lord and forget the things of property. But you can't do that. It takes years off of gathering the money to build a decent edifice. And there is edifice after edifice built by God's people that is today being used for the work of the Devil. Place after place where God's people have put in their money and their time and their energy, and built something, and today it is ~~not~~ used for a purpose utterly different from the ~~original~~ purpose for which it was originally built.

Well, now, this ~~is~~ is a question which deserves a certain amount of thought. And it is very well to give some thought to it when everything is going smoothly. So that if something begins to arise that is difficult, you can see and know exactly what the situation is, and where you can push forward and be safe, and where you had better surrender immediately, rather than spend a long time in fruitless effort for something that you can't possibly get. You heard of Coulson Shepherd. He spoke to us, the other day, in chapel. Giving that fine message about his work among the Jews. And he told us how he started that work among the Jews, ~~xxx~~ while he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlantic City. When he saw the great number of Jews there and was still preaching. And he ~~is~~ mentioned to you how he went to see this woman who had taken an interest in his church, and who left them this large sum of money, I forget how much it was, but it was a very considerable sum of money. For the building of a fine edifice for the church. Now, he did not mention this in his talk, there, ^{what} ~~xxxxx~~ happened afterwards. But I talked to him about it at the dinner table. And I remembered having heard of it at the time, and he told me further details of it. How, when this money was left to the First Baptist Church