

gradually again began to rise up out of the ashes of the long period. Is that a hint for us? Who knows? Of course we read here Paul says, Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day and not to be only but also to all them that love his appearing. How the Christian loves the thought that Christ is coming back.

Perhaps he's come very soon. Wouldn't that be wonderful? I'm sure Augustine must have thought that as he lay there on his bed, and heard the cries of the dying as the Vandals were running around and destroying outside Hippo. He must have thought, surely the Lord must come soon. 1500 years have passed and still He has not come yet. Some of yet hope He'll come right soon. But perhaps another 1500 yrs. will go past. We have no more right to be sure he is coming soon that Augustine had in his day. Perhaps we're heading toward another terrible dark ages. Who knows? But God knows. It's in the Lord's hands. We can safely trust Him with it. You can affect == You can't affect what's going to happen. You can have a little effect one way or the other, but God knows what's going to happen. But you have a responsibility for what you do with your life.

You have an opportunity to take this life and make it count for Christ. You have an opportunity to tell others of Christ as you heard of Him in school, and as you've studied it in the Word. But as you get among people who deride Christ, who ridicule Him, will you be frightened? Will you fail to speak out? Will you fail to make known that One who died that you might live? Have you gone along in your Christian profession simply because others have spoken piously and you've learned words that simply have something to do, or have they been instructed in your hearts? Do you know Jesus Christ personally as your Saviour, or are you just repeating words? Because if you're just repeating words they won't stand in the turmoil and temptations you'll have to meet in the days ahead. May God enable each one of you to look into your own hearts and make sure tonight if you've never done it before that you really have taken Him as your Saviour, your sin-bearer. Make sure you have been born again into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have all the forces of Hell may be around you, but God will protect you. God will lead you into His eternal kingdom and give you His crown of righteousness if you truly know Him. But if you know Him that's not the end. You have a life. How will you use it? Will you make it count for Christ, or will you forsake Him loving this present world? Will you be deceived by the many forces of today? Or will you keep your mind on the Word of God.

I don't believe that everyone needs to go into professional Christian work, not at all. But I believe it is every Christian's duty to speak for Christ, and to represent Him, and to stand for Him. If the Lord calls you to be a minister, if He calls you to be a missionary, if He calls you to be a Christian teacher, don't turn your back upon that calling. How many I have known who at the end of their lives have said, God called me as a young