

extend on and on and on. I'm going to plan what I'm going to do 10 years from now, 20 years from now, 30 years from now. There's so much I'd like to do, so much I'd like to write. I know it's unlikely the Lord will give me strength for that many years. But I'm sure that most of you at your age, the thought of death is something that hardly enters your mind, unless it be through an auto accident or something like that, and that to all of us seems very unlikely. But God strikes people down in the most unexpected way and at the most unexpected time. And any one of us if we are not putting God's objective as our primary purpose in life, any one of us, any one of these days may hear Him say, Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee. Then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided.

It is important that we realize that God's will is far more important than our plans, even wonderful plans. I think of a young man of great wealth and of great love for Christ who about 50 yrs. ago devoted himself to missionary service. He got the finest training he could in Bible study, in understanding of Mohammedanism. He went and worked in Egypt for a time in order to understand it more thoroughly and then went to China to work among the millions of Mohammedans in China who had not been reached with the Gospel at all. After the tremendous preparation he had given and the amount of money he had put into it and the tremendous amount of time and energy he put into preparing for the great work he intended to do for the Lord, he was suddenly stricken with illness and died. People could not understand. I talked with his mother years later. A wonderful Christian woman. So proud that he son had this great objective in serving the Lord and all that he did in order to accomplish it. Just as his work was getting under way God took him. Our finest objectives, our fix our finest purposes, our finest plans may not be what has in mind for us. And if our own objectives and plans, no matter how good they may be become to us the major thing in life, we may find a tremendous disappointment. We may find God saying to us too, Thou fool this night thy soul shall be required of thee.

Personally I get disgusted with I hear someone say, This has saved 50 lives. This will save 1000 lives. You can't save a life. Think of the people who were living 150 years ago in this country. How many of them had their lives saved? Maybe your life can be extended a little further on this earth. But your life can't be saved. God lends you a body for a number of years. He has formed a marvelous machine far superior to any machine man has ever made and He has lent it to you. You use it as a way of having contact with this particular material world here. You use it for a few years, and you should use it for His glory, and you should use it in such a way that it will last as long as He desires it to last and accomplish the purposes He wants.

But as you look back 500 years later, is it tremendously important whether you live 25 years? or 50 years? or 100 years upon this earth? The time comes when your life here is bound to end. God wants us to do what is Good. He wants us to accomplish for Him, but He wants us to realize that far more important than any fruit we can produce, ordinary fruit like this man's crops, or good Christian fruits that we can produce is nothing compared with the fulfilling of His will for us.