

the Reformation that N. Europe which became Protestant has gone way ahead of the southern areas!

Of course one thing that contributed greatly to that was the counter-Reformation which introduced a rigid control of thought in order to maintain Catholicism against Protestantism and that held the countries back.

I became acquainted in Wilmington with the R.C. Bishop there. I remember once meeting him on the street and having a chat with him. I referred to my studies in Germany, and he mentioned how he had been studying in Rome, and how in the summer time he would take a trip up into Germany and everything seemed so green, and the people were working so hard, and he was so impressed on how it contrasted with the situation in Italy.

I did not remark on how whether the different religious orientation had something to do with it, but I really imagine that it does in that situation.

In seminary I became more and more impressed that we have a tendency to take the word of other Christians, or the statements of great thinkers and/or the creeds we have made and stand on them and use the Bible as a source for proof-texts, or a source to go to and read some story and then make up illustrations of what we already know and already believe rather than to try and see what is really there! What does it really tell?

I was impressed at that time with the fact that most of our problems in life while a great many of them are definitely dealt with in the NT, that most of them root back from the NT into the OT, and there's a background that, and a great deal that I felt needs to be done, and so I shifted my emphasis in seminary to direct study of the OT.

Another thing that impressed me greatly was the importance of Christian activity and that is the bringing of souls to Christ and the development of individuals in the faith, and the tendency that some have of making a local church or a denomination or a group a thing that is more important than the individuals. I think that is very definitely wrong. I believe that a denomination can be tremendously useful.

In fact, I know ministers of independent churches who are doing a good work but are in a position where they should be able to step into a much larger work, and they don't have many contacts. When I was in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. before we left it on account of increasing modernism, they would have folders you could get I think for any one of six or eight regions of the country which would list the vacant churches and tell who to write to.

Thus there were contacts and it was much easier for people to shift from an area where they weren't to successful to another in which they might fit better, or to a larger opportunity. If a denomination is under the control of Christian leaders, it can be