

on, it's good to start (2.) now - habits of orderliness, habits of being ready - punctuality I think is a vital quality we should develop. When I was in South America I was to speak ~~XX~~ at a certain meeting in Buenos Aires. It was set for 7:00 o'clock at night and I sat with the leaders of the meeting in the little ante-room and it got to be 7:30 and I said well, why don't you start the meeting. Why they said "Maybe some more people come, let's wait another fifteen minutes." And sure enough in another fifteen minutes a big crowd of people came. It seemed to be customary there, whenever you announced the time of a meeting, you'd start about forty-five minutes later. That was their custom. I think they had meetings that they were starting at 8 o'clock supposedly and they'd start at quarter of nine and it got me to bed so late I said, "Wouldn't you mind starting the meeting at 7:30 instead of 8:00" and they agreed to do it and that meant they started at 8:15 instead of 8:45. But that's not our custom here in the United States. And if you conduct a church service and people get used to finding that you don't start until fifteen minutes after the hour then they just won't come till fifteen minutes after the hour. And you'll find more and more of them come late. Then if you wait for them to come you'll be waiting till half past. It's our American idea that it's good to be punctual. Now if you're in a country where they have a different attitude I think it would be very silly for you to go out and try to change people in these minor points in line with your own practice. But I think it's a very good thing to know when you're going to do something and do it at that time. And so we want to stress punctuality and having lessons ready and in on time and being to class ready to start when it starts because it is a habit that'll be worth a great deal to you to have even more because it will increase the efficiency of all. Our first objective is the development of the spiritual life. When I was at Princeton, we had a little chapel service which was 15 minutes. We always read the scripture, there was a prayer, and a hymn and the Doxology. Every day exactly 15 minutes chapel service. When we went to Westminster it was the same thing. In the 8 years I was in Westminster they had two special services - I think two evangelists came to town and in the course of time they ran special meetings for them to speak to the students. Aside from that we had nothing of that kind ex-