

growth in grace, but our growth in grace is a fundamental step. I've heard the illustration given about the carpenters whom Noah hired to build the ark. They did a great work. If it wasn't for those carpenters what would we have left of humanity? If it wasn't for those carpenters how would the ark ever have been built? How would Noah and his family have been saved through it? But those carpenters while serving the Lord and receiving a full compensation/^{doubtless}for what they did themselves were not saved but perished in the flood. Paul said that he should pray that God would enable him to keep his body under in order that having preached to others he would not become a castaway, 1 Cor. 9:27. Now I think that "castaway" is perhaps a little bit strong there for a translation. The Greek word adokimos literally is "not approved." I don't think that Paul had any danger of being lost and the word "castaway" certainly suggests that. But there certainly is a ~~big~~ ^{the} great danger of our putting service to God ahead of personal growth in grace, ~~and~~ and our personal growth in grace is absolutely necessary or the service to God, while God may use it for His glory. certainly profits us nothing if we are not ourselves growing in grace and in our knowledge of the Lord. Our personal growth in grace is our first purpose, and so we want to appraise ourselves in relation to it and see ~~what~~ whether we are making the growth in grace that we should make. and if not see what are the points of weakness and hunt in the Scripture to find the answer that we ourselves may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. But growth in grace is impossible without service. And service is a very important part of our purpose. So I believe we should list as a small b. Winning souls to Christ.

Surely

b. Winning souls to Christ. ~~Surely~~ this is the Christian's primary ~~duty~~ duty is to win others to the knowledge of the Lord. Winning souls to Christ is next to our own personal growth in grace, our primary purpose for being in this world. Now ~~that~~ does not mean of course that personal work and evangelistic work is the only phase of Christian work that matters, because after all we cannot tell who is saved. Paul ~~said~~ ^{said} "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." Some people hear the message once and come immediately. to an apparent acceptance of Christ, and in some cases it