

in serious crises but to warn them, to admonish them, to present the Scriptural truth to them when they don't seem particularly immediately applicable, in order that we get those things in our minds and they be there so that when the crisis comes we are ready to meet it. If we will think of the ways in which God desires others to grow in grace and think of ways in which we can help prepare them for the temptations that are ahead for them, for the difficulties, for the problems that they are apt to meet, If we can do that we are preparing them, we are helping to ~~help~~ take what we find in the Scripture and make it living in the lives of other people. And incidently we drive it home to our own hearts. I've heard people say that when they preach they preach to themselves more than to others, that the thoughts are driven home when we are trying to get them across to others. If we are doing it effectively they are being driven home to ourselves.

And so this I think is a part of God's purpose for us which is perhaps one of the most neglected portions among Christians. ~~Warning~~ Warning and admonishing others. I have often thought with great ~~regret~~ regret of the fact that after I had been away for two or three years I returned to my home and there saw a friend who had been a very earnest and active Christian when I had known him two or three ~~years~~ years before and I assumed that he was just as active and just as earnest then as he had been before. And so in the time, in the two or three hours we spent together, I simply relaxed and told him of interesting experiences I had had and interesting ideas that had come to me in ~~the~~ my experiences during the two or three years we were apart, and never thought of trying to help him in his Christian life. I felt in a way as if he were perhaps more advanced in the Christian life than I was and it would be more apt probably I would receive help from him than that I would be ~~able~~ able to give him any help. And I didn't see him again for three or four years and then I found that he had fallen into utter indifference to Christian things. He had fallen into ~~very~~ various types of sin; the next time that I saw his mother and she was very anxious that I try to help him, but ~~he~~