

the preparation that will enable you to serve the Lord effectively not merely for a brief time but to serve him effectively through life. We had a -- I remember many yrs ago, a young fellow graduated from college. He was in a rush to serve the Lord. He wanted to go to the mission field. He wanted his life to count there for the Lord. He had 4 yrs. in college. He said. Well, he said Why should I waste 3 yrs. in seminary? I know of a place where I can go and get a goo one yr. course ~~of~~ and then I'll be ready. So he went and he took this one yr. course and before he was half-way through it he began to find that it was not on a basis for college students. It was adapted to high school students rather than college and even so as he got into things he found he was not getting all that he needed. He needed much more. So he wrote letters to his friends ~~at~~ <sup>from</sup> college in 5 or 6 different seminaries, and asked them about their experiences and situation and in the end he came to us and I think he got far more value out of his 3 yrs for that one yr. that he had spend, if for no other reason than that he realized the importance of what he was getting. He realized the need of it. But so many people as they finish college put in 4 yrs -- Why am I not now ready to get into the Lord's work? after maybe a little bit of training. Why do I ~~need~~ need 3 yrs. of seminary? It looks forward. It just goes on and on and on -- 3 long years to put in before I can get into the work. And then half of them when they finish the 3 yrs instead of saying, Now let's jump into the work and go ahead. They say Where will I go and study some more? They go from one extreme to the other extreme. The Lord wants us to decide how much training we need now. And that doesn't mean we can't get more later. But he wants us to get the training. to get the preparation. It is very vital. That's small a. - The need of preparation.

b. Most vital is spiritual preparation. The one who is called to the Lord's service immediately is filled with enthusiasm and wants to get right into the work. But O how easy it is in the course of preparation, in the course of acquisition of skills, how easy it is to become dried up and to become cold in one's spiritual life. And Sinai should be a time not merely of acquiring skills but ~~of~~ a time of increase of consecration to the Lord. A time of increase in knowing Him, in being ready to face emergencies that will come ahead, in the future, because we have learned to know the Lord when we have time to meditate on