

the easiest jobs in the world to get lazy in. It is easy to get lazy in even a thoroughly Christian church, because the minister is trained in many technical points that the people know nothing about. It is said that Padereskie said once: A day without practicing and I see the difference. If I go two days without practicing, the critics see the difference. If I go three days without practicing the people see the difference. A man who goes out of seminary can go with a great deal of truth in his mind and can preach for a time very effectively, but if he does not study the Bible and learn new truth and increase his understanding, the time will come when the people will become very tired of his ministry because they will not be being fed. Only God can see whether a man is really being faithful in keeping up his studies, in keeping up his increase in these things of the Lord, in fitting himself not merely for the task of today, but for the task ahead.

Right there there is a very great danger for seminary students too. Our American system of education is to a great extent one of cutting a big job up into little slices and assigning this for tomorrow and this for the next day, and so on. And we are apt to think of the immediate job and forget that we are preparing for a life of service. It is 100 times more important what you are getting now that you can use through your life, than that which you are getting now to satisfy the demands of a particular course for tomorrow or for next week. Satan desires to lead us into slothfulness. Proverbs is full of warnings against it.

Second, however, is to lead us into wasted energy. How many a minister there is who started out to preach the Gospel and has turned aside to other objectives. About 60 to 70 years ago there were a great many ministers who saw the terrible curse of alcoholism./