

Some of them made the principal object of their ministry to try to get alcoholism outlawed, to get people to sign temperance pledges and so on. They had a great effectiveness for a brief time. Today we hear little about it, but the curse of alcohol is perhaps greater today than ever in its history.

I don't say all this energy was wasted. Part of it was well-spent. We need to point out to people the danger of such things as alcoholism. But if half to two-thirds of the energy that had gone into that had gone into leading people to know the Lord and love him and follow Him better more would probably have been accomplished in relation to alcohol. It is easy for us to see the needs of our generations, to see social problems, to see ways of political improvement and we should think of these things. It is our duty to vote. It is our duty to know who we are voting for. It is our duty to make this world a better world. But if that assumes a major place in our lives, it is wasted energy, for our energy should be primarily for the spread of the Gospel.

A third device of Satan is to lead us to selfishness and lust of the flesh. How many a minister having preached to others becomes himself a castaway. How many become led astray by the opportunities of this world or by the lusts of the flesh. It has been very distressing to me to see many cases of real evangelical ministers who as far as I could see preached the pure gospel, but who were led astray by the lusts of the flesh to the place where their lives were ruined. I can think of 5 or 6 people that I have known fairly well who have seemed to be effective and active preachers of the Gospel who have forsaken their wives and gone off with some other woman and their lives have been ruined as at least so far as their services to God is concerned. People say, We've got to get a divorce; we don't