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Chapel 11/2/77

Turn to 2 Cor. 10:3-5. (reading text) . . .

God calls us to the casting down of imaginations. He calls us to the pulling down of strongholds. He has given us a great task to perform during the years he leaves us here on earth. Paul uttered these words and it is inspiring to all of us to think how Paul went forth to pull down strongholds. How he went forth to overcome the forces of Satan. How he carried the Gospel through every part of the Roman empire. There was the tremendous force of the Roman empire at that time, that force that that only a few years later completely destroyed Jerusalem and sent thousands of the people who survived into slavery. That power which insisted that anyone who held any position must worship the emperor as a god. That power which had gathered to itself a great culture from most parts of the world at that time, and before the great thinkers of the Roman empire, the great leaders, the great poets -- who is this little Jew who came from Tarsus there over in Asia Minor and had spent a few years in Jerusalem. Who was he to stand up and to pull down strongholds and cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself?

But Paul went forth in the Power of God in order to accomplish great things for God. We know how tremendously God used him. It is very easy for us to get a sort of fortress mentality. Now there is a great deal in the Bible about how God will care for us, how He will protect us, how nothing can come into our lives except what is in accordance with His will and purpose. There is a great deal in the Bible about our throwing ourselves upon the mercy of Christ to protect us against the tremendous forces that would overwhelm us. We do need to rest in the power of God, and many a man has been greatly used of God in tearing down strongholds and casting down imaginations has himself fallen a victim to Satan. We need that.

But I fear that many of us tend to think only of that phase. We tend to think of ourselves as a little group off by ourselves holding to what the great bulk of the people today hold as an old superstition. As an outword theory of the Middleval days. Today we find that most of our children in the public schools -- I've known of children who have been rebuked for bowing their heads for grace before they ate their lunch. I've known of children in the public schools who have been sneered at for believing in God. Much worse in the universities. Many a person has lost his faith in our universities through the arguments that have been given against belief in God and belief in the Bible. But for every one who has fallen to this ~~ix~~ there are 5 who have lost their claim to faith simply through fear of ridicule, fear of being sneered at. We live in a world in which the ungodly have taken over a tremendous part of the control.

A few years ago Dr. J. Oliver Buswell who was then in New York was working for a Ph.D. at New York University. He told me how he worked with a woman professor there -- I forget her name -- I'll call her Dr. Joels for a name for the woman. He said he told her about the evidences for the resurrection of Christ, and how sure we could be God raised Christ from the dead. And he said that she was greatly impressed and he felt he was making real headway with her. Then he said the next time he saw her she said, I was just talking with Prof. Smith who is head of the department, and he said "But Miss Joens, You can't believe in the resurrection of Christ! If you did that you'd be a fundamentalist. Why, he said, I was raised a fundamentalist.