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J. A. Dennis

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GOOD NEWS

THE TEXAS HERALD

VOL. 3 No. 10

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MORE THAN CONTAINMENT

This Is The Victory



The time has come for the Christian, democratic world to turn from its negative view of communism expressed in our "containment" policy of trying to hold Marxism back—to an assertive, morally aggressive approach. Instead of holding them back, why aren't we pushing them back! All the millions of people behind the iron curtain long to be free of their oppressors, although for many of them it is a rather blind inarticulate desire, for they are not trained in the arts of democracy nor versed in the ways of freedom. Most of them have always lived under one kind of tyranny or another. But men today are not "ripe for communism" as the reds claim; it was the Christian gospel that awakened them through a great century of missionary endeavor—and only Christian truth can bring about the fulfillment they seek. If we could have what is wasted on military extravagance to devote to a great advance of Christian truth, we wouldn't contain communism—we'd inundate it. For there are millions of Christians behind the iron curtain waiting for just such an hour.

—Charles A. Wells

GOOD NEWS. THE TEXAS HERALD

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"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

MIXED SIGNALS

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it; when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21)

When today's football team starts a play they go into a "huddle" where the play is called by the quarterback or captain, and where each player learns his part in the coming action. Each man has his place, his part to play. One man is designated to run with the ball, other men are to run interference for him, others are to block the charging defense.

If one or more miss the signals, are mistaken as to what the play is to be, go the wrong way, are in the wrong spot; the play is ruined, the team thrown for a loss, perhaps the ball is lost to their opponents, possibly the game is lost.

That is all that is wrong with the world today, we've gotten our signals mixed. God has a great Plan for the world, a plan and a place for every man, woman and child in it. His Son, Jesus, came announcing that Plan: the Kingdom of Heaven. He calls the plays, gives the signals.

But men have failed or refused to listen. They make up their own plays and plans, give their own signals or listen to someone who doesn't know. Hence God's Kingdom is thrown for a loss, the Devil has a field day, with hate and confusion, fear and war.

You can imagine the confusion on the football field if every man on the team decided to go the way he thought best, run the play he thought would win, regardless of what his teammates were doing.

Today we have the mad spectacle of different nations all claiming to have the right answer to the world's problems. And in our own land we have different political leaders calling different signals for different plays, each claiming that their plan will win prosperity and peace.

And we have the sorrier spectacle of having some 250 different denominations calling their several plans for saving the game, and each running in their own directions and wondering why they are not reaching the goal of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Only as men go into a "huddle" with God do they get the proper signals and know where to go and what to do to bring the Kingdom in. Down through the ages a few men have done this. They alone have had the right answer to life. In them, alone, lies the hope of mankind.

Centuries ago God called a man up on a moun'ain top, alone with Him, and gave him some rules for living. They were so important that pen and ink were not durable enough to hold them so they were chiseled on tablets of stone. These rules, called the Ten Commandments, given to Moses, became the foundation stone for nations down to and including our own.

Centuries later God called another man apart with Him in the wilderness and gave him the signal for his day: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." And multitudes repented and were baptized by John the Baptist.

A few years later, God came down on another mountain top in the person of His Son, Jesus, and gave the world a new set of signals, a new code for living, a new law—the law of Love—spelled out in the Sermon on the Mount. These new signals ushered in a new Plan for man: Peace on earth, goodwill among men.

Many times in the 1900 years that have followed, the Kingdom's quarterback and captain, Jesus Christ, has called men off in a huddle and repeated to them the formula for winning the world: "Come, follow Me." Once it was Paul, then St. Francis, later John Wesley, George Fox, Charles Finney, Dwight L. Moody, Gandhi and Kagawa.

Today Frank Laubach, Stanley Jones, Glenn Clark and many others are repeating the signals that our Captain once gave on the shores of Galilee:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Come follow Me."

But each time His signals are given, each time His play is called, there are other men who interrupt and say, "No, that is not the way. We should go this way, or that way, do this thing or that thing, if we would win happiness and peace."

The world is all mixed up today, not because God's plan was wrong, not because the world or man is a mistake, but simply because we have gotten our signals mixed, or having received them, have refused to carry out our part in the play. Many of our political and religious leaders think they know more how the game of life should be played than the Author of the Game, Himself.

"For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." (Rom. 10:3)

If man of this generation would put as much common sense and enthusiasm into playing the game of life as they put into a game of football, the world would be re-made over night. When we play a game we first get a rule book and learn what the rules of the game are and agree to follow them. Next we appoint an umpire to see that we abide by those rules. Then we appoint a captain or quarterback to call the plays and we expect every player to obey those signals or get off the team.

That's the way football games are won!

Friends, life is the most important game in the world. It was made to be played by certain rules and *only* by those rules. Those rules were so important that they were bound in a little black Book that is gathering dust in practically every home in America. The Bible carries all the rules for winning in this game of life and reaching its goal: the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Bible also contains all the signals that Jesus gave for defeating the enemy team, captained by the Devil.

Yet today we see the sorry spectacle of sin, sickness, hate, fear, war, giving God's children a beating all over the globe, including America.

Why? Because we have refused to play the game of life by the rules laid down by the One who invented the game, and put you and me on His team. We have made up our own rules and then cry out in anger and frustration when we are pushed back over our own goal line.

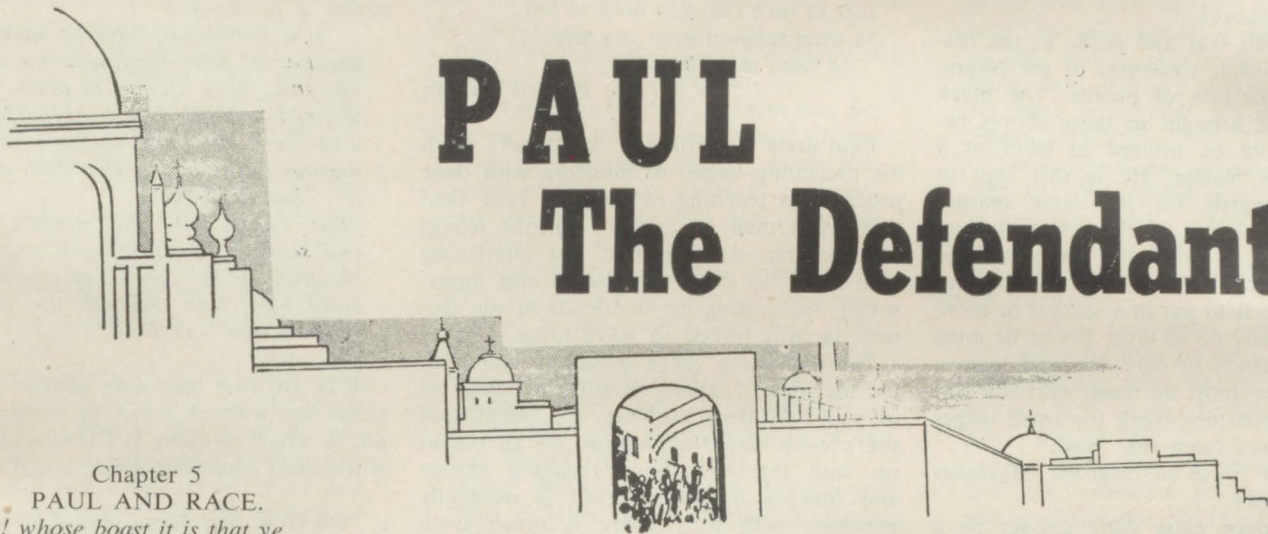
Why? Because we have refused to heed and obey the signals given us by the only Captain who knows how to win this game, the only One who ever defeated the foe in open combat; Jesus is His Name, the all-star, the undefeated Son of God.

We have given our own signals, each has run his own way and complained because he has been tackled by sin, sickness, hate and war.

O, America! Will we never learn? Yes, I know some of the rules are strict, some of the plays are difficult; for this is a game

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PAUL The Defendant



Chapter 5 PAUL AND RACE.

*"Men! whose boast it is that ye
Come of fathers brave and free,
If there breathe on earth a slave,
Are ye truly free and brave?
If ye do not feel the chain
When it works a brother's pain,
Are ye not base slaves indeed,
Slaves unworthy to be freed!"*

*Is true Freedom but to break
Fetters for our own dear sake,
And, with leathern hearts, forget
That we owe mankind a debt?
No! True Freedom is to share
All the chains our brothers wear,
And, with heart and hand, to be
Earnest to make others free!*

*They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak:
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think:
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three."*

"Freedom" by James Russell Lowell

Second only to religious intolerance in the reasons for the Jew's hatred of Paul was their race prejudice. He hit them in this sore spot even harder than had Jesus. He turned from them in disgust when they rejected his teaching of Christ and preached to the hated Gentiles. He ate and travelled and worshipped with these social outcasts and had the effrontery to say that they were the equals of the Jews.

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all and in all." (Col. 3:11)

The culmination of his crime was his bringing four Greeks, or so they thought, into the Holy Place in the temple at Jerusalem, where Gentiles were not allowed. This precipitated his mobbing and arrest.

The Jews had a deep-seated pride of race, a feeling of racial superiority second to no other people, not even that of the white over the black races today. God, through

A frank attempt to learn from Paul how Christians should face the problems of today.

His prophets had repeatedly warned them of the danger of marrying outside their own people and had forbidden intercourse with the heathen. Theirs was not merely a superior race physically, mentally and socially, but theirs was a race "divine." They were God's favored people, chosen for the purpose of bringing to succeeding generations of the world, belief in One Sovereign God, and His Plan of Redemption for mankind.

Naturally they were proud and aloof. When Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at Sychar and, worse, stayed two days in their village, He did an unheard of thing, an act that put Him beyond the pale of "decent" folks. It was as if one today, claiming to be a religious leader, would forsake the rich hotel provided by his sponsors, or the wealthy home of a white admirer, and would walk across the tracks to eat and lodge with the colored folks. Respectable society was scandalized by His actions, by His stepping across the barriers of race and social custom and propriety.

Paul's crime was even worse in this respect for Christ's acceptance of the Samaritans was only an occasional thing. But Paul lived and preached among the Gentiles continuously. They were his travelling companions. He expressly stated that the Greek Christians were the equals of the Jews, yes even more favored than the Jews who had not accepted Christ. And everywhere Paul went the Greeks heard him gladly and followed him in increasing numbers. The racial dignity and long accepted superiority

of the Jewish race was threatened. Something must be done. This dangerous practice of intermingling of the races must stop; Paul must be put to death.

Race prejudice is still with us, still a curse and a cause of strife, though a problem that now weighs heavily on the conscience of every thoughtful Christian, every follower of Him who dared to say, "One is your Father . . . all ye are brethren." (Matt. 23:9, 8) It is now being condemned the world around, but while condemned in other lands, is being clung to by the citizens of most countries right at home.

American Christians tolerate, even approve, of our missionaries teaching, eating with, and worshipping with Africans, Indians, Chinese or other colored races in the foreign field, but meet with stony silence any suggestion that white and blacks should worship or eat or play together here.

Whenever a fair and decent treatment of the Negro is advocated, whenever the demand voiced that he be accorded political and economic equality with the whites, that his rights of citizenship be tendered him, immediately is raised the cry of "Impossible! It will mean intermarriage! It will mean the end of white supremacy! It is unthinkable, un-Christian!" Yet no one is unduly alarmed over intermarriage with Mexicans, Indians, Japanese or other races whose members are citizens of America. There would be a few mixed marriages but probably very few, for incompatibles rarely marry, and the races have vastly different backgrounds.

The issue is at bottom one of race prejudice, of pride and selfish superiority. It is not unmingled with economics, nor with the desire to dominate someone, that is not alone the sin of Hitler.

Many people once raised the question, "Why doesn't England grant India her independence?" The answer was mixed with pride and profit. It had to do with the large percentage of English wealth that flowed

"That we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us—that we should respect the rights of others as scrupulously as we would have our rights respected—is not a mere counsel of perfection to individuals—but it is the law to which we must conform social institutions and national policy, if we would secure the blessings and abundance of peace."

—Henry George

from India's shores.

Coupled with fear and pride, as the reason for our unfair treatment of the Negro, is also the question of profits. The black man was first brought to these shores because he could be utilized to labor at a profit for his master. He is still kept in semi-slavery partly for the same reason. A well-to-do planter in the south can no more raise cotton profitably today without cheap labor than he could in the days of slavery. If one is to put in a section or more of land, as many do in West Texas, he must have many hands to care for and harvest the crop. They must be those who will live in primitive quarters, work for small wages and take orders from the "boss."

Hence they must be Negroes, Mexicans or "poor whites."

Without a poor class there cannot be a rich class. The wealth of our millionaires is based on that fact. And this is not alone true of the south. North or south, menials are in demand. Without the Negro as an inferior, servant race, or without a corresponding class among other races, the rich could not live as richly as they do. Where would they get their chauffeurs, cooks and dishwashers, their boot-blacks and hotel porters and janitors? Without those faithful servants we would have to do these tasks for ourselves. We would have to shine our own shoes, cook our own meals wash our own dishes, sweep our own floors.

Obviously if everyone did those things for himself, there could hardly be a rich class and a poor, a ruling class and a ruled. There would be only one class—relatively middle class, relatively independent, relatively equal, as it was in the early days of our nation. For unless one can hire someone to do this manual labor one cannot have time to plan and execute programs that amass great fortunes. Without comparatively cheap labor, at least cheaper than manager's salaries, factories would not run. This truth is back of much of the opposition to racial equality in America as elsewhere.

Men today are visioning a world wide government to do away with war, but it can never succeed until many more than now have a world wide vision of all men, races, classes, colors, and nations as brothers and children of God, and who begin to live that vision right in their own communities. The race question is not one of "intermarriage" or "amalgamation." It is a question of whether we dare to live up to the ideal that startled the world in 1776, "ALL men are created equal." Of whether we dare to live up to the implication of our pious prayer, "OUR Father." If Christ was the first world citizen, Paul was undoubtedly the second. "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek." (Rom. 10:12)

Chapter 6

PAUL AND PROFIT

"A man must live." We justify
Low shift and trick to treason high.
But is it so? Pray tell me why

Life at such cost you have to buy;

In what religion were you told,

'A man must live?'

—Charlotte Perkins Stetson

Paul drew the dislike of the Greeks when his preaching began to interfere with their profits. His teaching of the One True God threatened their business of fortune telling and making silver shrines. For interfering with the first Paul was beaten and imprisoned; for cutting the dividends of the second, he was forced to leave town.

Profit seeking, alias greed, is still with us; the love of money is still the "Root of all evil." Modern business, capitalism, and the present day Nationalism are all bound up with this question of making money and making it faster. Profit is integrally entwined with war. There is much truth in the statement that "it is a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." While millions of men lay down their lives protecting the wealth of the nation, the wealthy of the nation pick up more millions. Once upon a time, when the American Legion believed in staying clear of another foreign war, they said, "Take the profit out of war and there won't be another war." This, American business and the American Congress refused to do. Hence we cannot prove the truth of that assertion, we can only assert that there is much ruth in it. Solon was right when he said "Equality causes no war."

Profit is one sure incentive to patriotism, preparedness and propaganda for war. A nearby defense plant or air base has quickly overcome the pacifism of many a town, as its payroll begins to flow through the stores. Fat government contracts often break down opposition to government policies. Trade knows no national boundaries, has no inhibitions as regards the color of its customers, and too little as regards its methods. It has one creed only, "More profits!" Big business, "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8)

Profit seeking is being questioned everywhere today by thoughtful Christians, but only in un-Christian Russia has much beside talk been done about it. Because she is leaving out other vital requirements of God's plan for man, the Russian experiment must either change or fail, but Russia has raised an issue that the world must reckon with, and that the world today is fighting rather than face, for she is showing the rest of the world and especially those nations who boast of their Christianity and Democracy the point where we have failed to be either democratic or Christian.

Russian Communism is not Christ's answer to capitalism. Having ruled out God they have failed man, but still they have put their finger on the first failure of Christians, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Without a real concern for an equalization of economic life, of seeing that wealth is distributed to the extent that the poor are fed and clothed, religion be-

comes a mockery.

"If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit?" (Jas. 2:15-16)

"But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 John 3:17)

Yes, how?

It is true that man does not live by bread alone but without bread he cannot live at all, to which millions in China and Europe, if the dead could but speak, could attest.

"Oh God, that bread should be so dear
And flesh and blood so cheap!"

"The Song of the Shirt," by Thomas Hood

Many are saying today, "I'll fight before I'll consent to an equality with the poor, whether they be the poor of our own country or of China, India, or Japan!" Ah! Now we have an admission as to one great cause of war.

Yes, greed is still with us, self still supreme. As in the time of Christ or Paul, anything that hits the profit of any man rouses the hatred of that man. The pocket book is a vital and vulnerable spot. Most Christians, especially in those communions practicing immersion, before being baptized, change clothes and leave their wallets in their other trousers. They are then baptized all but their pocketbooks. But whether sprinkled or immersed, many folks become "Christians" with their ideas of profit seeking unchanged.

Few ministers dare to champion any cause that endangers our competitive, greedy economic system, lest they be denounced as Reds, or lest they lose the contributions of business men to their budgets.

What is the Christian attitude towards money making? What is the Christian standard of living? Since the first Century the church has never dared face up to this question. Christ's answer seems to be "What one needs to best fit him to work in My Kingdom." All over that is in the field of luxury and sin is forbidden territory. All surplus over needs must be distributed among others less fortunate. For each Christian it is a question to be decided with the help of a trained Christian conscience, with the eyes of his neighbor upon him, and with Christ looking over his shoulder as he figures his budget.

Christ spoke frequently and very definitely on the subject of riches:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is there will your heart be also . . . But seek ye first the

Kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you . . . take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matt. 6:19, 20, 21, 33, 34)

"Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of Heaven. And again I say unto you it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Matt. 19:23-25)

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:34-36, 40)

Christ lived in accordance with His teachings in regard to wealth. He renounced home, business, savings, security, for the work of the Kingdom, trusting God for His daily needs. When hungry people came to Him, He fed them, without asking questions as to their worthiness. "I will not send them away fasting." (Matt. 15:32) The average Christian would and does.

Jesus demonstrated in His feeding of the multitudes that when food is dedicated to God and properly distributed, there is enough for all and some left over. He commanded, "give ye them to eat"; the disciples said there was not enough for everyone, "Five loaves and two fishes . . . what are they among so many?" But Jesus "took the loaves . . . gave thanks . . . divided . . . and "they were filled" and "meat was left."

His command to His disciples today is to feed the world's hungry. Our God is not a God of scarcity but a God of abundance. There is enough for the needs of everyone if we will distribute it instead of destroying it! If we will share it instead of hoarding it.

We've been trying to get, get, get—so according to God's law (with what measure you mete it shall be measured to you again, Matt. 7:2) the world will get it away from us. We will lose in the next few years all the wealth we've piled up in the last fifty. If we had been Christian enough to give, give, give of our wealth to other peoples during the last decade, the chances are good that we would not be at war today, there would probably be no war today.

Remember the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30)? And what happened to the man who buried his wealth in the ground? We've buried most of the world's gold in the ground in America. God's law rules the world, which means that our riches

will be taken from us, unless we reverse our policy.

Christ's disciples followed literally His commands and His example.

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 4:32)

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." (Acts 4:34-35)
Where did Paul stand on this question. Paul believed in working. He labored as a tent maker, even as he preached.

"And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers." (Acts 18:3)

"Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought: but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you." (II Thess. 3:8)

He believed in Christians working:

"And that ye study to be quiet, and

to do your own business and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." (I Thess. 4:11-12)

"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." (II Thess. 3:10)

He believed in Christians sharing with those in need:

"Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labour working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Eph. 4:28)

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (Rom. 15:1)

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Gal. 5:14)

"Then the disciples every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul!" (Acts 11: 29-30)

Paul did not believe in drones, or in holding all effort to the plane of mediocrity. He believed all should work, contribute, give, according to his ability.

"For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye be burdened: but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack." (II Cor. 8: 13-5)

This, then, the Christian standard as taught by Jesus and Paul, and demonstrated by them and the early disciples: Let everyone who is able, work; not to pile up wealth for himself, but to supply first his own actual needs, then the needs of others. If one could not work, or lacked the necessities of life, his Christian brethren must supply that lack. The standard was, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need," and being content with necessities, not coveting luxuries, all over actual needs to be shared with others.

"Not given to filthy lucre." (Titus 1:7)

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

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"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
Romans 13:11-14.

America is engaged in a deadly fight for freedom. Let us reconnoiter the terrain of battle and venture to probe the position and strength of the enemy. Let us measure our own defenses and resources and plan a strategy for victory. The most ominous forces opposing us are not to be found behind the Iron Curtain or in some conceivable alliance of foreign powers. Rather the foes we have most reason to fear are within our gates. The home front is the strategic sector in this conflict. Troy will not be taken by assault from without until first of all the gates are unbarred and swung open from within.

I see within the gates of America at least five deadly foes of freedom. I. Public Enemy No. 1 is War and Militarism. Already this twentieth century has witnessed two appalling world wars which have brought our Western civilization to the brink of catastrophe. It is doubtful if we can survive a third world war, particularly a war fought with atomic war heads and modern weapons of destruction. The devastation of such a war to life and property is beyond all calculation. If some survivors should weather its horrors and crawl from the rubble, it would be to a different kind of life. There is small chance that our American institution could survive the strains and shock of such total war. Underscore this fact. No one will win a third world war. There will only be shattered survivors, not victors.

To become involved in an atomic world war is already to have lost the fight for freedom. I suppose, by common definition of the term, I am not a pure pacifist because I believe the use of force may in some instances be justified for a righteous cause. But militarism is not the road to freedom and liberty. Strength is needed to maintain the right and to enforce order in a lawless world but not at the price of instituting a military state. Let every thoughtful American consider well the perils involved in universal military training — in putting our confidence in guns and tanks and planes rather than the more difficult and demanding labor of removing the causes of war. The column of enemy troops we need to attack now are poverty, disease, illiteracy,

A Sermon Preached by
Rev. Robert Boyd Munger, D.D., Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Berkeley, California

hunger, fear, ignorance. These are the festering sores which inflame the body of society with the fevers of conflict. The oppressed and miserable masses of the world who have nothing to lose but their wretchedness will seize any way out of their despair, even if it is the path of war. Let us then attack the causes of war with the same decision and determination with which we are preparing to meet its advent.

Most of the world is waiting for us to lead the way in opposition to all tyranny, to stand boldly for justice, righteousness and principle in an evil and unprincipled generation. Shovelling out dollars to unprincipled governments is not enough. We must reach the peoples of the world and with imagination and courage, plant for them to follow footsteps in the ways of peace. If we

"Do not waste your time on Social Questions. What is the matter with the poor is Poverty. What is the matter with the Rich is Uselessness."

—George Bernard Shaw

are willing to pour billions into the defenses against war, we ought to be willing to make sacrifices for its prevention. Let us work for peace, pay for peace, pray for peace.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

The Christian is called to be a "peacemaker." He is a member of the assault battalion in the offensive for peace. "Blessed are the peace-makers," said our Master. The Christian is to be a sort of human catalyst, fusing together through his personal contacts irreconcilables. Our Lord has marked out for us in the Bible, a threefold strategy for peace.

1. We are called to be at peace with GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ. Behind the issues of war lie the fear, hate, and lust of sin. Behind sin lies humanity's war with God. Until the human heart is subdued and brought from rebellion against its Maker to repentance, there cannot be permanent peace. Conflict among men is the result of man's conflict with his God. Only when the spokes of the wheel are adjusted to the axle will the rim be balanced. There can be no final assurance of peace among men until men are on center with God. For this purpose, Jesus Christ, the divine Saviour, came into the world reconciling a sinful race, by his atoning death, subduing the hearts of men with His love and bringing them to surrender and trust in God.

"Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. "But

now, through the blood of Christ, you who were once outside the pale are with us inside the circle of God's love and purpose. For Christ is our living Peace. He has made a unity of the conflicting elements of Jew and Gentile by breaking down the barrier which lay between us. By His sacrifice. He removed the hostility of the Law, with all its commandments and rules, and made in Himself out of the two, Jew and Gentile, One New Man, thus producing peace. For He reconciled both to God by the sacrifice of one Body on the Cross, and by this act made utterly irrelevant the antagonism between them. Then He came and told both you who were far from God and us who were near that the war was over. And it is through Him that both of us now can approach the Father in the one Spirit." (Ephesians 2:13-18 Phillips Trans.)

Secondly, God calls us to peace with our Christian BROTHERS. Having been reconciled, forgiven and loved by Jesus Christ we are to be reconciled to our brother, forgiving him in the same manner that our Lord has forgiven us, loving him for Christ's sake. "Beloved, if God so loved us we ought also to love one another." (I John 4:11). Indeed this matter is placed in the forefront of true worship.

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave here thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matt. 5:23-24.) "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31-32.)

Thirdly, God calls us to peace with our ENEMY. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.' But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." Matthew 5:43-44.

By the Grace of God my attitude towards my enemy is to be that of Jesus Christ towards me who, when I was resisting Him and fighting His lordship, reconciled me to God by His death.

When the Emperor Constantine assumed direction of the Roman Empire, one of the first petitions brought to him was from the chief of a tribe of the Goths, barbarians who had been raiding and ravaging the

northern borders of the Black Sea. It seems that in one of the raids he had captured a Christian slave girl and she had converted him along with many others of his tribe. He was now sending for Christian teachers to instruct them more fully in the Christian life. A slave girl brutally snatched from home to a life of servitude had, for Christ's sake, loved her enemy, shared with him that which was most precious to her and won his heart to the Saviour. Christ brought peace between them.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

The Christian is called to love his enemy. He may not be able to change the course of historic events around him but he may reverse the direction of those enmities that touch him personally and start them out in God's way. I cannot commend a nation but I can, by the power of Christ, bless them that curse me, do good to them that hate me, pray for them that spitefully use me and persecute me and say all manner of evil against me falsely. In Christ's strength I can be a peacemaker in my home, on in the shop or office or school. Do I have an enemy? Is there one who is making life difficult for me? Here and now let me forgive and purpose for Christ's sake to seek his highest welfare, really to love him. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." Ephesians 5:2.

II. The second deadly foe in the fight for freedom is pride and prejudice. Norman Cousins, Editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, returning from an extended tour around the world and several months in India, shared some of his impressions in a recent article in the magazine, "Social Progress." He relates that there was one question which came again and again to him from students and other groups. They listened rather impatiently as he sought to clarify America's position and purpose in the fight for world freedom. They were not much impressed. The question they demanded to have answered was this: "Sir, how do you reconcile America's propaganda on democracy and human rights with the injustice of racial discrimination in the United States?"

Obviously, we cannot proclaim the dignity of man and his inalienable rights and then proceed to withhold them to a minority group. We cannot herald to all peoples our dedication to the four freedoms, place explosives and light a fuse under all discriminations and injustices in the world, then try to sit on the lid within our own borders. It must be admitted that our white race with all its noble achievements and contributions, is guilty of pride and racial superiority. One billion souls and more, of a different color know rising resentment toward this flagrant violation of fundamental freedom and justice. No amount of money, no political arrangement, no overtures of friendship can remove the distrust and hatred which this blot on our way of life incurs around the

world. Yet in all fairness it must be said that more progress has been made to remove racial discrimination in America in the last fifteen years than in the previous fifty years and it is being done without violence. But the pace is too slow! The rest of the world may not wait for us.

CHRIST HAS THE ANSWER

Now Christ has the answer to this as well. He Himself came to be the servant and Saviour of all men. God loves every man. "He so loved the world . . ." From the beginning, the universality of His fellowship in grace is made clear. "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Col. 3:11. It is one of the terrible tragedies of our time that two nominally Christian Protestant countries, the United States and the Union of South Africa, are lands blighted with racial prejudice. Let us who know the salvation of Jesus Christ recognize that the ground is level at the foot of the Cross and demonstrate in our fellowship that every man is dear to God, that all true Christians share a common Lord and a common life.

III. The third deadly Foe in the fight for freedom is moral corruption. During the last war many of the dykes of Holland were dynamited, first by the Dutch to retard the advancing Nazis and then by the Nazis to oppose the oncoming British. The dykes had been built through years of toil and because of the stout sea wall, broad acres of beautiful farmlands were brought into production. Then with a blast of dynamite and a sickening roar, the salt sea plunged over the soil again killing its vegetation and leaving it a useless marsh.

For a thousand years, since the first missionaries to the European barbarians, the Western world had erected a seawall against savagery through the Christian faith and morals. True, not all people were genuine Christians but at least general assent was given to man's responsibility to the God of truth, righteousness and love. Christian morality was the dominant ground of social

behavior. Then the spirit of rationalism and agnosticism swept Europe. Pagan creeds defied the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Materialism drilled deep holes into the sanctions of morality. Two world wars touched off the explosive and with a sickening surge, huge sections of the sea wall have been swept away. The death camps, the moral vacuum of Europe measure the extent of the flood.

Now the flood is rolling across America. Observe these alarming symptoms of increasing moral disease in the organism of American life.

1. The abandonment of principle as the basis for national policy. From the very beginning of our national existence in the struggle for independence, appeal has been made to the great self-evident principles of right, truth and justice. No cause could hope for support unless it could be shown in the light of an ideal or principle. It may have been forced, people may have been deceived but only these motives aroused them to great sacrifices and heroic endeavor. Now, increasingly, there is an open appeal to the expedient and unashamed resort to self interest in advocating certain national or international policies. In the councils of state or in political decisions which involve us all, few are irrevocably committed to principle, many yield to the political or international "deal." Our nation was established under the "rule of law." When law is set aside for expediency we imperil the foundations of democracy.

2. There is the betrayal of public trust and the perversion of public officers for personal advantage. Since this has been on the front page of our newspapers for a period of many months, we just note it in passing.

3. There is the frightening breakdown in general moral behavior. The sanctity of marriage, the integrity of the home, the virtue of purity and self-control are being corrupted by an unprecedented, vicious wave of immorality and sexual license which is leaving in its wake human wreckage, broken homes, blasted lives and embittered hearts. It is estimated that one million illegitimate babies are born every year; one million of our girls suffer from venereal disease; fifteen million sex magazines are printed every month and read by teen-agers; Fidelity is the foundation of a true home. But this wave of immorality is undermining the homes of America.

Gambling has reached such proportions that its tentacles have crept into areas from the public office to the basketball court and twenty billion dollars a year pours down the drain. Since the war, America has indulged in a drunken binge. Liquor sales have reached the fantastic level of nearly nine billion dollars last year. There are two bars for every church in the nation. There are eight bars for every five schools. Two and a half times more is spent for liquor than for public education. The terrible effects of alcohol are too well known to be covered

Jesus Ordains Seventy Disciples

(News as it might have been if there had been newspapers 1900 years ago.)

Reaching out to cover all the land of Canaan, Jesus of Nazareth who by his teachings, threatens the country with revolution and chaos, today ordained seventy more ministers and sent them out without provisions, to spread his doctrines.

Like the twelve he sent out last year, they are to live off of whoever will take them in.

We hope something will soon be done to stop this dreamer who dares to challenge our existing customs.

—The Jerusalem Herald, Dec. 15, A.D. 29.

What the late Evangeline Booth said is still true:

"Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snapped more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more reason, wrecked more manhood, dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven more to suicide, and dug more graves than any other poisoned scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world."

Yet we tolerate the promotion of liquor sales in advertising and refuse to face the glaring evils of its effects. Crime, delinquency, divorce, misery all roll on in a swelling tide. Like a monstrous cancer in the body of society, moral corruption saps the life of our nation.

FAITH IN CHRIST PURIFIES

How may we meet and master this monstrous enemy to freedom? Well, we as a people must first see the living God Himself, the Lord of Holiness, Righteousness and Truth. It is before the white light of His countenance that we grasp the true nature and extent of sin. It is in His presence we learn of grace and regenerating power. Christ alone can change a man's soul and give him victory over sin. Let us pray that our land shall be visited with a great spiritual awakening and that once again a vital faith in the living Christ shall renew and purify from within the hearts and minds of our people.

For those of us who know the power of

Jesus Christ to deliver from the guilt and penalty of sin, we are called to walk in the way of holiness, even if we must walk alone. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." It does not take much salt to preserve from corruption. A small light may be seen a great distance in the dark. A genuine Christian life, real with God, clean, purposeful and committed with joy to the Master, exerts tremendous influence. Our light must shine.

IV. A fourth enemy is resignation, the inactivity of indifference or despair. Our forefathers forsook their homeland, ventured across the storm-tossed seas to establish their home in the wilderness controlled by deep convictions about God, life and liberty. Yet there are some of us in this generation who will not venture across the street to vote. They poured out the sweat of toil and labor to lay the foundation for the glorious institution we now enjoy, yet some of us lounge on the sofa too absorbed with our television sets to enlist in the preservation of these rights and precious liberties. They fought and bled and died to pass on to their sons their faith and freedom, while we scarcely stir our minds to think through to action the issues which are before us.

Perhaps it is not so much indifference but discouragement which slows us to inactivity. The problems are so vast, the forces against us so powerful, the centers of decision so remote from us. We seem so small and so few, we ask ourselves, "What good can we do?" How may we change the world or the community or even the church? Remember the future of the world always lies with its minorities. Certainly the future of the world lies with the Christian minority. Jesus Christ

by His life, death and victorious resurrection has made certain the ultimate conquest of God and goodness. He has promised to return and reign in glory and righteousness. In a very real sense, we as Christians, are not fighting for victory but from victory. The crucial battle with sin and death and hell has been won for us by Jesus Christ. We are simply marching now with Him toward the final consummation of His conquest.

Jesus Christ entrusted His mission to the world to a handful of men without position, influence, formal training or wealth. There were only one hundred and twenty in the Upper Room and their names were not listed, as far as we know, on any social register of great men. Yet the Holy Spirit filled them. With the word of the Gospel upon their lips they turned that pagan world upside down. It was done again in the days of the Reformers, and once again in the great awakening under the Wesleys and Whitefield. And still further America has been renewed and changed more than once through the Spirit-filled witness of a few. After all, one with God is a majority.

If we are committed to Jesus Christ and His will we may leave the results to God. One last fact, — in this fight against evil and unbelief, there are no neutrals. Where do you stand in this fight for freedom? On Christ's side in full faith and loyalty, or are you a drag and a weight to the Spirit of God? Let us enlist ourselves and all we have to move with Christ to victory. "They overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Rev. 12:11.)

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Mixed Signals

(From Page 2)

of life and death; not just for ourselves, but for this land we love, for the Church and for eternity.

Yet we listen to an Eisenhower, a Stevenson, a Churchill, a Truman, a Roosevelt, and pin our hopes on a man and his man-made plans to lead us out of defeat into victory; while we ignore the One who invented the game, made the rules, and calls the signals on the only winning plays that ever defeated a deadly foe.

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth; and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15: 8-9)

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matt. 22: 37-39)

"Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they take the sword shall perish with the sword." (Matt. 26:52)

"O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate." (Matt.

23: 37-38)

"Therefore I say unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (Matt. 21:43)

Friends, God and His Son are still running this universe, still calling the plays, still giving man his signals, whenever man will come apart and listen and then obey.

Are you on the winning side today? You can be if you'll listen to the Voice of Jesus and obey Him.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

"And thine ears shall hear a Word behind thee, saying, This is the Way, walk ye in it; when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

"TOO BUSY"

The Lord had a job for me but I had so much to do I said: "You get someone else . . . or wait till I get through." I don't know how the Lord came out, but He seemed to get along. But I felt kind of sneakin' like . . . knew I'd done God wrong. One day I needed the Lord . . . needed Him right away . . . And He never answered me at all, but I could hear Him say Down in my accusin' heart, "Son, I got too much to do . . . You get somebody else . . . or wait till I get through." Now, when the Lord has a job for me, I never try to shirk; I drop what I have on hand and I do the good Lord's work; And my affairs can run along or wait till I get through, Nobody else can do the work that God's marked out for you.

"While seeking happiness for others, we unconsciously find it for ourselves."

—The Pentacostal Evangel

Get Off The Rope

(The second in a series of messages on Miracles. The third will appear next month.)

"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven." (Matt. 18:18).

Many people cannot believe in miracles of healing today at God's hands because they say, *that* is a breaking of nature's laws, of the natural law of growth; and God doesn't interrupt His laws or break His laws, to please men.

I want to show you that when God heals a man by what we call a miracle, in answer to prayer, that He does *not* break His laws or do anything inconsistent to His nature. On the contrary, whenever God heals a sick man by a miracle, He is merely giving us a speeded-up demonstration of what He has been doing day and night since He created man.

Most of the miracles of Jesus were such speeded-up demonstrations of God's everyday activities.

In most instances, when we cry out in prayer for God to do something, God is already doing, as fast as He can, what we are begging Him to do.

We often get a concern or burden for the hungry people of the world; for men and women and little children are *still* dying of starvation. We beg: "Oh, God, feed the hungry, furnish food for the needy, have mercy on them, Oh, Lord." While all the time, *day and night*, God is working at feeding His hungry children. That's all He does, day and night, week after week, month after month, year after year; make provision for His children, working to give them food and clothes and health and happiness. How?

Day and night He tries to grow more and more food; more wheat, more corn, more potatoes, more fruit, more cattle, more sheep, more fish—day and night—He never sleeps. We may think we work at growing some more food when we tinker a few hours a week or a day in the garden with hoe or garden hose.

But God never sleeps. He works day and night, making more food grow, wherever He can find anyone who will plant the seed, and cultivate the plant and harvest the crop. Why? Because He is concerned about His children. He not only has all His people to look after, but He has the sparrows to feed, the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field to *feed and water, every day*.

Listen:

"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: He watereth the hills from His chambers: He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food

out of the earth; The young lions roar after their prey; and seek their meat from God. These all wait upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them, they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. (Psalms 104: 10-14, 21, 26-28).

You see how concerned God is for His animals, how they are dependent on Him for life and water and food? And He said He was much more concerned about us, His children, than about the animals and birds.

"Ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt. 10: 31)

How it must hurt God when men plant tobacco in His fertile soil instead of corn or wheat or cotton! When men take the

"Where one goes hereafter depends largely upon what one goes after here."

—The Pentacostal Evangel

corn and wheat and rye He grows in His good earth and make it into rotten beer and deadly liquor, to kill His children with, instead of to feed them. And how it must hurt God to see us—us—the United States—Christians—drop big bombs on warehouses, fields, shiploads, of food, and blow it up—food for His children!

Pray to God to feed the hungry? We better pray that the Devil in men will stop hindering Him from feeding His children. Pray that *we'll* stop hindering Him.

Every cigarette you smoke, every glass of beer you drink, means somebody didn't get the food that God intended His earth to produce.

Then we beg God to heal the sick: "Oh, God, heal this person, raise him up from his bed!"

And all the time for the past five years, or twenty years, as long as he has been sick, God has been working at healing him, doing His best to heal him, in spite of the hindrances that keep the healing from becoming effective.

What do I mean? God is working in that man's body through the cells, the white corpuscles, the blood, the lungs, the pores of the skin, to get the poison out, to make the man well like God made him in the first place.

We say, "Why don't you heal him, God?" You talk about nurses and doctors working 8 hour shifts taking care of the sick, or 12 hour shifts, or 16 hour shifts; God never sleeps! He is working day and night to heal the man, to raise Him up, doing everything He can do, with whatever co-operation He finds there.

His great love pulls that sick body towards Him, and health; all the time, day and night, just as the sun's rays draw up all day long the moisture from the earth.

Whenever God's love and yearning over some sick child of His finds an answering love and faith, God does in few moments or in a few days what He has been trying to do for years; and we call it a miracle.

Was it a miracle? Was it a breaking of God's laws? Was it contrary to what He does all the time, day and night, in your body and mine; work, work, work, to keep us strong and well? Why? Because He loves us, and He rejoices more than we do when we let Him heal us.

We beg God to heal us; we'd better begin begging God to forgive us for keeping Him from healing us, as He wants so much to do. Was it a miracle when He heals us? Or was it a speeded-up demonstration of what God does every day in millions of men's bodies everywhere?

Suppose a small boy goes down to the river and puts a baited hook on the end of a whole ball of fishing twine. He throws the end in the river and unwinds the whole ball and holds on to the end. After a while he catches a fish and begins to pull in the line, 100 feet of it, slowly, foot by foot. What is he doing? He's landing his fish. Slowly, to be sure, and the fish is still invisible, but he's landing his fish!

About that time his father comes along and says: "What you doing, Son?"

"I'm pulling in a fish!"

"What? Got a fish on that line?"

"Sure have!"

"How much line you got out?"

"A whole ball of twine."

"Here, son, give me that line!" And the strong father gives the line a sudden, powerful yank and lands the fish up on the bank with one big jerk.

Has he done something contrary to what the boy was doing all the time? Same line, wasn't it? Same fish, wasn't it? Coming in the same direction, wasn't it? Only difference in speed and power, when the boy lets loose the line and the Father puts His strength to it. That's what a miracle is: God's quick, strong jerk on the line!

Are you begging God to heal you? He's trying His best to do it and has been ever since you got sick. Either you or the Devil or somebody else is in the way, or He would have had it done long ago. If, for some reason, His natural, slow healing agencies wouldn't work, if they had broken down in your body because of sin, mistake, perhaps anger, or fear, or resentment or pride or disobedience—anyway, if He had the opportunity, He would do it the other

(Turn To Page 12)

CHRIST

AND THE HEADLINES

An earnest attempt to look at today's events through the eyes of Jesus.

"WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES"

"O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:3)

An amazing thing has happened in American politics; yet no one is amazed, frightened or dismayed.

A thing has happened that would have made George Washington and Thomas Jefferson sick with horror; yet no one is shocked or surprised.

This state of affairs is another signpost indicating the low-water mark of American morals to which we have sunk in 1952.

Richard Nixon, vice-presidential candidate, blandly admits accepting an \$18,000.00 "slush" fund from political friends, yet denies that he has done "anything wrong."

His running-mate, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who has announced his candidacy for the office of President of the United States as a "great moral crusade" geared to the objective of cleaning out the "mess in Washington," which mess includes mink coats, bribes, under-cover deals, etc., has clasped the weeping Nixon to his bosom and has stated that Nixon will continue as the number two man in the so-called "crusade." This despite stern warnings from some of his political advisors.

But the moral level of the people of the nation is indicated by the flood of mail and telegrams which endorsed Nixon's stand.

At the same time the Democratic candidate, Adlai Stevenson, calmly admits that he has been giving his political friends hand-outs from a similar though much larger "kitty" in Illinois. His running mate, Senator Sparkman, admits that he has his wife on the government payroll as his secretary, and President Truman recalls that he did the same when senator, as do many other members of Congress.

The principal argument for salary increases and expense allowances granted to members of Congress in recent years has been that the increased compensation would make it unnecessary for Senators and Congressmen to stoop to such under-the-counter tactics to get elected, to live while in office, or to get re-elected.

What are the plain facts in the case of such supplementary expense funds? They are off-the-record deals or thinly veiled bribes, just as reprehensible as gifts of mink coats and deep freezers, which have raised such a hue and cry of the "mess in Washington."

No one can be naive enough to believe that the donors to such a fund would expect no favors in return, or that the recipients would be unaware of their obligation to repay the favor when the opportunity arose. —

Recipients of mink coats, cash gifts, etc., in the recent Washington scandals all claimed the gifts were received with no strings attached, that they were really gifts and not bribes in disguise; but no one believed them.

No one in his right mind believes that Nixon did no wrong nor Stevenson, nor the giver and receiver of mink coat or deep freeze, or gift or loan of cash, to one in public office.

The important thing about this last affair is that both Eisenhower and Stevenson, with thousands of other Republicans and Democrats, condone and accept as perfectly legitimate, a practice which our founding fathers would have treated as treasonable if not a penitentiary offense.

No matter who wins in November, America faces the prospect of having as her next president a man who is incapable of cleaning up the "mess in Washington" because leaders in both parties are doing and condoning the very things they are now campaigning against.

Such antics deepen the cynicism of the candid observer of

politics in America. For a time there was hope stirring across the nation like a cool breeze—hope that a brave knight had risen who would rescue this fair land from the tyrants of evil, lying, and corruption that have characterized American government for several decades. Then the crusade of the political novice, Eisenhower, seemed to retreat into the expediency of getting elected by whatever means: Tom Dewey, Taft, McCarthy and now, Nixon.

For a few weeks it looked as if the Democrats had at last found a man "Whom the spoils of office could not buy" in Adlai Stevenson. Then, little by little, the aurora wore off as he, too, was primarily concerned with getting elected, and now his "gravy" fund portends a continuation of the handouts so lavishly distributed in the "right places" by Truman and his predecessors.

The Republicans are no better and no worse than the Democrats. All are men—average of 1952. Their behaviour is a sign of our times, an indication of our moral decay, and so a terrible warning to all who can read correctly the "signs of the times."

When France fell to the Nazis, observers were unanimous in saying that she did not fall because of lack of military preparedness but because of inner moral collapse. So has it been with most nations in history.

The Roman Empire ruled the world but collapsed because of immorality and corruption. The same was true of the fabulous Kingdom of Solomon, the chosen Israelites who were to be God's peculiar people, but who slipped from their moorings on the Commandments of God and emulated the pagan people surrounding them.

"And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies; but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord." (Jer. 9:3)

"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." (Isa. 59:14)

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man (or a nation) soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7)

"For the wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23)

If ever America needed to heed the signs of the times it is now. Our Number One Enemy is not Russia or Communism. It is Sin, the broken commandments of God: Truth, Morality, Righteousness.

Our salvation does not lie in Eisenhower or Stevenson, Nixon or Sparkman, for they are tainted with the nation's sickness. Our only hope is in "the Man Christ Jesus."

Christianity—real Christianity—instead of being a privilege or a pleasant experience, is fast becoming a necessity in this country if the United States would survive.

A revival is on the upsurge across America. Men and women are praying for it. Evangelists are preaching it to multitudes. What holds it back?

We have not come to our knees in repentance, and only repentance opens the door to revival. As long as we self-righteously condone and uphold such questionable practices as fills the newspapers and air waves today, God can do nothing for us and we draw ever nearer the brink of destruction.

Our one hope lies in the fact that God is yearning for the repentance that will permit Him to spare us the fate that sin inevitably brings.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

America stands today where Nineveh stood in the days of Jonah. America needs men today who will preach to America as Jonah did to Nineveh. Listen to God's word to Jonah:

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me . . . And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and

"YE SHALL BE WITNESSES"



proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

"And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." (Jonah 1: 2; 3: 4-10)

Notice these words: "And God saw their **WORKS**, that they turned from their evil way."

Repentance is not merely being sorry for your sins, repentance is not merely crying out to God for forgiveness. Repentance is shown by your works. By turning from evil ways to God's Way, from dishonesty to telling the truth, from immorality to cleanness, from drunkenness to sobriety, from cheating to integrity, from stealing to returning what you stole, from cursing to praising God, from doing evil to doing good, from sin to the Saviour from sin.

Oh, America: Drunken America, gambling America, tobacco-bound America, cheating America, lying America, corrupt America, immoral America, Sex-mad America, War-minded America—God is calling to you as He once called to Nineveh, as Jesus called to the unrepentant Jews of His day: "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Whether forty days or forty months or forty years, the time is short; the judgment inescapable.

God is not mocked; the wages of sin is death. Repent and be

saved; America. Go on your mad, God-disobeying way and be destroyed, as Sodom and Gomorah, as Rome and Jerusalem.

Listen to Jesus: "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." (Matt. 12:41)

America, it is time for repentance if you would escape destruction. And repentance in the eyes of God is by good works. "God saw their **WORKS**, that they turned from their evil way."

When we have real repentance in America, you will be able to believe what men say, even the politicians, you will see men returning money and goods they have gotten unlawfully or dishonestly or unfairly, you will see divorced husbands and wives returning to their families, you will see dishonesty and graft and hypocrisy disappear from government, business and the church. You will see men and women on their knees, but you will also see them on their way to their neighbors, taking back what they have stolen or borrowed, taking back the harsh words they have said, making amends, making restitution. That is repentance and that is America's one hope in this hour.

Listen to Jesus again:

"Think ye that these were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:4-5)

That is God's call to America today: to Republicans and Democrats, to high and low, rich and poor, to you and to me—"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish!"

Will you listen? Will you obey?

THAT PARTY PLEDGE

Governor Allan Shivers of Texas has stated why he cannot vote for Adlai Stevenson this year and thus excuses himself and his fellow Democrats who feel as he does, from living up to the party pledge which was printed on the ballots on which they cast their vote in the party primary.

Aside from the issues of tidelands, FEPC, the Fair Deal, Trumanism, and all the other lesser issues of the campaign, Shivers put his finger on one truth that has too long been ignored by Democratic voters in Texas.

Governor Shivers said that in deciding against voting for Stevenson he was putting his God and his Country above his party.

Regardless of whether you are for or against Shivers, or Stevenson or Truman or Eisenhower, regardless of whether or not you want Texas to have the tidelands, or whether you are pro- or anti-New Deal, FEPC, etc., to put party above the best interests of one's country or above the dictates of one's conscience is neither democratic nor Christian.

To try to compel a Democrat who has so voted in his party's primary, to vote for his party's nominee whom he feels is not the man best fitted for the office, smacks of dictatorship, not democracy.

In making this statement, we are neither pro-Shivers or pro-Eisenhower, or anti-Stevenson, neither are we a Republican. We took this same stand in a Democratic precinct convention in Austin in 1948, refused to sign the party pledge for the reasons here stated, and were barred from voting in the convention.

Nevertheless we still believe our stand was in the best interests of America and the only stand a Christian should take. We have never voted in any primary other than the Democratic. When we vote we scratch a line through the pledge, leaving only "I am a Democrat."

Whether that causes our ballot to be thrown out by the judges, we do not know. We have done our duty as an American who dares to put the best interests of his country above loyalty to party, and his allegiance to God above what men may demand that he do.

—J.A.D.

"When the state is most
corrupt, then laws are most
multiplied."

—Tacitus.

GET OFF THE ROPE!

(From Page 9)

way, with a quick jerk of His big, strong hand, that men call a miracle.

Why aren't you healed?

When I was a boy, the County Fair was the big event of the year. We usually got to go at least one or two days. They used to have one great attraction, a free event: a balloon ascension and parachute jump.

One time I went over to where they were filling up the balloon. They had a fire and were heating some kind of gas and letting it go into the balloon. As the big body of the balloon began to fill and rise up off the earth, it was held down by ropes all around, with sandbags on the ends of each rope, and with men sitting on the sand bags and holding onto the ropes. I went over and laid on the ground and help on to a rope.

The balloon slowly filled and rose up and tugged at the ropes. But we held it down until it was big and strong enough to lift the sand bags and the balloonist and carry them high in the air. The man sat, or lay, back a ways in his little swing, at the end of the parachute. The tip of the parachute was fastened to a rope at the bottom of the balloon and he could jerk it loose when he got ready to come down.

Pretty soon the balloon was nearly full. The pull on the ropes was stronger. The laws of nature were pulling that bag of heated gas up—up—up! Why didn't it go up? We were sitting on the ropes, holding it down!

Then the shout went up: "Let go the ropes!" We let go and up she went; sand bags, man, and all! Just enough buoyancy to let him float over the tree tops a little while and wave at the crowds, then he released the sand bags, and up he went, high in the sky. Then he pulled the trip rope, the parachute opened and he came floating down to earth.

Here is a man in a wheel chair, crippled with arthritis or paralysis or some other sickness. We get our little jacks of prayer under him, and as we crank and crank and crank, we cry out to God, "Pull him up, Lord, pull him up, pull him up, pull him up!"

God has been pulling him, trying to get him up, long before we started praying, ever since the man got sick. In fact, God was trying to prevent the sickness, but the devil or sin or disobedience got hold of

the man. Then God started His healing agencies in the man to work. Day and night from that moment, God has been pulling at the man, trying to get him out of that wheel chair or bed, trying His best to get him well again.

"Pull him up, Lord, pull him up, Lord, pull him up!" we cry.

Why doesn't he go up?

Men sitting on the ropes! Men holding him down, just like we held the balloon down. Men on the ropes, holding him down, blocking God's pull, defeating God's efforts to heal him, to raise him up.

Who's on the rope? The man himself, for one. He doesn't know God is pulling His very best to raise him out of that wheel chair. He complains that God isn't fair to him, nothing can help him, he believes he'll die in that wheel chair. He's sitting on the rope.

But he's not the only one. You and I are sitting on the rope, too. We see his sickness, his wasted muscles, his bent frame, we shake our heads in pity and we, too, ignorant of God's great love and of His great, tireless, day-and-night efforts to raise him up, pulling against our doubt and fear and unbelief and ingratitude, we see him in that wheel chair the rest of his days. We hold him there, we bind him there.

Here the Lord opened my eyes to a new meaning of that verse:

"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 18: 18)

That's absolutely true! As long as we bind the man there in that chair, by our unbelief, God himself can't raise him up. But as soon as we, and the man with us, loose him, see him jerked out of that chair by the mighty hand of God; the Devil himself can't hold him down any longer!

Let go the rope! Loose the man and he'll be loosed in Heaven and he'll rise up and walk to God's glory.

And now, let us pray: "Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy great love, Thy unceasing care, and Thy great concern for our life and health. Forgive us for binding ourselves and others to wheel chairs and beds of sickness, by our unbelief, when Thou art pulling at them with all Thy love and power to raise them up, as soon as we loose them and let them go. Right now, God, help us to let go the rope that holds us down, and let You pull us to our feet, for Your honor and glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

PAUL, THE DEFENDANT

(From Page 5)

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierce themselves through with many sorrows."

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness . . ."

"Charge them that are rich in this world that they be not highminded nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in god works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"
1 Tim. 6:5-10; 17-18)

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
(Heb. 13:5)

What then is the Christian standard of Giving?

*"And must I keep giving
Again and again?"*

"Oh, no," said the Angel:

His glance pierced me through:

*"Just give till the Master
Stops giving to you!"*

—"The Sunlit Way" by Earnest C. Wilson

There is no question but that the tithes was the standard of giving in the Old Testament. Jesus raised all the standards when He came. He raised the standard of shunning adultery, from the realm of the act to the realm of the thought and intention. He raised the standard of love from the realm of neighbors to include even our enemies. What about giving? In His company of disciples they had a common treasury. His closest followers, imbued with His Divine Spirit after Pentacost, had all things common, distributed all as any one had need. The standard was one of need. They used what they needed, gave all over that to others who needed it. The tithe then must be the absolute minimum for he Christian to give. This will be his standard until such time as his income supplies all his real needs, not greeds. Above that point all his income must be distributed to those who need it, if he is sincere in his attempt to follow Jesus and Paul and really be a Disciple.

(Continued Next Month)