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
Each man has his place, his "huddle" where the play is called by the quarterback or captain. Jesus, came announcing that Plan: the Kingdom of Heaven. He 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.

Ye: 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.

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's 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."

And we have the sorrier spectacle of having some 250 different denominations calling their several plans for saving the earth. Those rules were so important that 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.
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

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, 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 un-duly 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 unmixed 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
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 prices lower than the white man; he is still kept in semi-slavery partly for the same reason. A well-to-do planter in the south can no longer get his hands to labor, for 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. The wealth of our millionaires is based on that fact. And this is not alone the 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. 

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, alas 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 truth 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 man, but till they have come 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 shutoff 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 communities 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"
Gold in the ground in America. God's law gives, give of our wealth to other people. The man who buried his wealth in the ground is evil. He may have to do so for the next fifty years. There is enough for the needs of everyone 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 tentmaker, 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 burdensome 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 neighbour 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 efforts 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 gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack." (II Cor. 8:13-15)

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. (Turn To Page 12)
The Fight For Freedom

"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 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 conscription training --- the eroding of 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, 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 footsepts in the ways of peace. If we 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 2:11-18 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 in 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

PAGE SIX
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 despitely 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 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 forget all 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 our creed in the direction of those enmities that touch us personally and start them out in God's way. 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 peoples 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. There are two years.

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 uncontrolled 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.
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 we must first see the living God Himself, that we may learn of grace and regenerating power.

The problems are so vast, the forces against the future of the world always lies with its roots deep in the distant past. We seem so small and so remote from us. We seem so powerless, the centers of decision so far off. 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 lounge of society.

Perhaps it is not so much indifference but discouragement which slows us to inactivity. 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 lounge of society.

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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 its 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." (Rev. 12:11)

(Reprinted By Special Permission)
Get Off The Rope

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

“Whatever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatever 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 them 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 visible, 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 way.
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 Wash­
ington 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 an­
nounced his candidacy for the office of President of the United 
States as a "great moral crusade" geared to the objective of clean­
ing 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 mem­
bers of Congress.

The principal argument for salary increases and expense al­
dowances 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 tac­
tics 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 
band 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 Wash­
ington 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 
or 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 Eisen­
hower 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 pros­
pect 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 sev­
eral decades. Then the crusade of the political novice, Eisenhower, 
seemed to retreat into the expediency of getting elected by what­

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 aura wore off as he, too, 
was primarily concerned with getting elected, and now his "gravy" fund portends a continuation of the handouts so lavishly dis­
bursed in the "right places" by Truman and his predecessors.

The Republicans are no better and no worse than the Demo­
crats. 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 pre­
paredness 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 sur­
rounding 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 
equality cannot enter." (Isa. 59:14)

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever 
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 re­
pentance opens the door to revival. As long as we self-righteously 
condone and uphold such questionable practices as fills the news­
papers 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"

The Pulpit is not the only place
Christian truth may be proclaimed

The lay voice is also needed

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 cleanliness, 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 Gomorrah, 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-Steventon, 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.

PAGE ELEVEN
The pull on the ropes was stronger. The or lay, back a ways in his little carry them high in the air. The end of the parachute. The crank, we cry out to God, and tugged at the ropes. But we held it to let him float over the tree tops a while and wave at he crowds, then he re­botton of the balloon and he could down until it wa big and strong laws of nature were pulling to lift the sand bags and the balloonist and 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 juggled 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 rope!” We let go and up she went; sand bags, man, and all! Just enough bouyancy to let him float over the tree tops a little while and wave at he 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!”

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, self can’t hold him down any longer!

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 pierced 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;” I 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 Pentecost, 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 greedies. 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)