

TIMELY

TOPICS

By

W. Carl Ketcherside

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## CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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*Within this ample volume lies  
The mystery of mysteries.  
Happiest they of human race  
To whom their God has given grace  
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,  
To lift the latch and force the way;  
And better had they ne'er been born  
That read to doubt, or read to scorn.*

## WAR CRIMINALS AND JUSTICE

In these days we observe the setting sun of Nazi dominance in a once powerful Germany. Our troops, with their allies, have forged into every nook and cranny of this nation which has emphasized gangsterism, and enthroned brutality, as the law of state. Millions of hearts rejoice over the triumph of our arms, even amidst the sadness occasioned by the death and wounding of so many of our sons. But great problems still lie ahead. Not the *least of these is the question of what a Christian nation should do in the punishment of those who have brought sorrow and suffering, demolition and devastation, to the hearts and homes of untold and countless millions of innocent victims.* I have been asked to speak frankly upon this matter.

Already it appears that there are those in this nation, with a false conception of God's Word, who are beginning to mouth vain platitudes concerning "peace on earth"; who are talking about the wrong of taking vengeance on aggressors; and who are making preparation to thwart any attempt of the government to execute the wrath of God upon the arch-criminals of this age. I want it understood that I believe in the Bible. I believe in the spirit of Jesus Christ. I believe in the precepts laid down by the God of Heaven. And that is why I resent the thought of so many well-meaning but ignorant idealists, making it appear that Jesus and the Bible are opposed to the full and complete punishment of the Nazi overlords and their cruel henchmen.

The other day I listened to a preacher who drummed on the thought that we "should love our enemies." He emphasized anew that the Sermon on the Mount declared "we should pray for them." I agree with all of that. But there is a lot of difference between loving an enemy and shielding a diabolical criminal. Peculiar indeed must be the logic of one who would kneel down and pray for a mad dog, which was coming toward him with slaving jaws and bared fangs. We are not dealing with personal enemies. We are dealing with world murderers. I have nothing personal and intend to have nothing personal against any person in Germany today, but I believe that in order to restrain arrogant criminality, a just, swift and sure punishment must be meted to the guilty.

I have seen the pictures of the "horror camps." I've gazed upon the scenes depicting the suffering, starvation, and cruel death of thousands of enslaved people. Those gaunt frames, sunken eyes, protruding ribs, and swollen tongues haunt me as I walk along. There were the huge ovens in which human bodies became the fuel that crackled even as the grisly laughter of the fiends in human form who fed them. There were the thirty-five cars with half of them filled with wretched, miserable, vermin-infested bodies, here and there a faint movement betokening a living one among the dead. There are the proven stories of our own boys beaten to insensibility on the streets by those who had set out to degrade civilization. There were our own captured men forced to walk barefoot through snow for miles, herded into railroad cars used for hauling freight, packed so tightly that only a few could lie down and sleep at a time. Men who came from homes of peace and quiet, forced to exist upon slop and swill made from grass and potato peels. I tell you today that the ones who are guilty of this wholesale murder deserve the punishment of the peace-loving nations administered in such a way that never again in this generation or the ones to come shall such brutality be practiced by those who call themselves human, but are fiends clothed in human flesh.

And the Bible bears me out in that assertion. O, I know that this will be criticized. I'll get several dozen letters this week from well-meaning people and preachers especially who will denounce me for coming out so plain. They will tell me that this type of talk foments hate. They will say it is contrary to the essence of divine revelation. Yes, they will write, but the ones who agree with what I say will not. They will sit back with self-complaisance and rejoice with satisfaction that I take the cudgel of truth in my hands, but they will not take time to send a card or letter telling us to "let the truth be known." But that's all right! We'll speak it anyway. This program must never degenerate into a milksop, pussyfooting presentation to please the people. We're here to tell the truth, regardless of what the world says or thinks.

The Bible recommends swift and sure judgment. I'm in favor of immediate trials for all who have engaged in barbarous practices toward their fellow-men. And after the trials, I want to see speedy execution of the sentences. I do not favor having trials and

retrials on little trivial technicalities until eventually civilization forgets, and once more looses the element which plotted and planned its overthrow. The Bible says, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

I am in favor of capital punishment administered to the leaders and their appointed assassins. I do not think it will solve the problem if we place them in a nice, warm prison, and nurture and feed them. They will but spend their time in conspiring to escape, and will get the idea that we are "soft and easy." Christianity is based upon love, but it is also based upon justice. We've heard so much about the love of God and so little about the wrath of God that we have forgotten that love is not only a tender emotion but likewise a stern devotion to duty. Now, you can see where all of this preaching about the glory of heaven, with never a word about the flames of hell, has brought us. We're suffering today because Christianity has preached a one-sided gospel. Anything that is one-sided is also lop-sided.

The Bible declares, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man" (Genesis 9:6). That lays down a principle which has never been abrogated. It is the will of God. Man has softened into a "spiritual mollicoddle" and is afraid to preach it, but it is there just the same. I've even heard absurd reasoners say, "Well, if a man kills someone, and then another has to kill him, why then someone will have to kill him, and so on until everyone is destroyed." That kind of reasoning is childish and asinine. God said, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood," referring to a murderer; "By man shall his blood be shed," referring to the state or nation, which is thus authorized by heaven to exact the blood of a criminal. I would like to ask if it would be murder to carry out God's will?

But you'll quote Romans 12:19,20, which says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Yes, you'll read that to me, but you'll not read the next few verses, which tell how God exacts vengeance today. Now it is my time

to read. "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers (civil government). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. . . . For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. . . . For he (civil government) is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, A REVENGER to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Romans 13:1-4).

Certainly I am not to personally revenge myself. God has appointed the civil government as His revenger, and has designated it as the agency to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. This government and every government which is striving to maintain principles of justice is an agent of God. It is the duty of such agents to execute God's wrath upon individual and national criminals. It would be wrong for me after this war to take a double-barreled shotgun and go stalking through Germany looking for criminals to shoot. But it is God's will that this nation and the Allies shall bring them to justice. And notice that the record says, "The ruler beareth not *the sword* in vain." Swords are not used to spank babies when they get unruly. They are used for capital punishment of deserving criminals.

I emphasize again that I have no personal feeling against any enemy. If a German prisoner escaped and came to my door, starving and thirsty, I would hand him a sandwich with one hand, and reach for the telephone to call the police with the other. I would feed him because he was a starving man, but turn him over to the law because of his dangerous criminal tendencies. The Bible and human justice cry out for the speedy punishment of brutality and beastly treatment of the helpless by aggressors.

## VICTORY IN EUROPE

We greet you with mingled feelings upon this day which has been designated a day of special devotion, by the President of the United States. Our hearts rejoice at the cessation of hostilities and the triumph of our heroic soldiers on the continent of Europe; they are saddened by the thought of those who lie sleeping underneath the crosses, row on row, that mark the final resting place of our remembered dead; they are sobered by the contemplation of the bitter months of fighting which must yet go on, until the tyranny of the Pacific regions is also overthrown.

Yet, there is much for which we can be thankful this day. The pale horse which stalked with ghastly step across the fields of battle in Europe has at last been tethered by the rope of peace. The shrouded rider who swung his scythe amidst the living bodies of flesh and blood, to see them fall in serried ranks as the ripe grain falls before the reaper and lies in windrows, has been subdued for the time being. The ghostly voices of the dogs of war which went baying in the starlit nights, and strained to envelop more countries in their devouring jaws, are no longer heard.

Men who stalked through mud and muck, who lay in the rain of the spring, and slept with a blanket of snow falling upon them in foxholes in the winter, can now stand erect and stretch their tired bodies without fear of whining death. Those who trembled at the thud of bombs, who closed their eyes when they saw the brains spattered from the heads of their comrades can now open those eyes, and cease their trembling. Mothers can go to bed at night, with the thought of a loved one who may now return. Fathers can hum a song of joy at the lathe or the desk, as they recall the tall form of one who is a part of them. For all of this we are doubly thankful, humbly appreciative, and sincerely grateful at the throne of God this day!

There has never been a moment since we engaged in the cruel struggle against the arrogant assumptions of dictatorship, that the issue has been in doubt in my heart. At the time when men in craven fear predicted the trampling underfoot of the entire universe by Hitler, I dared to assert that he would never rule the

world. And I just as confidently declare this day that the forces of evil upon the other side of the world will be subjected. I'm not making this assertion upon my own wisdom, or by my own ingenuity. Instead, it is but a fulfillment of God's pledge and promise to the world. The rainbow of hope which God gave Noah finds its counterpart in the spiritual glow which surrounds His promise concerning the eventual triumph of the church over all the kingdoms of this world.

There were four great world powers which persecuted God's chosen ones. They were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. When the first of these was still in existence, God portrayed all of them to the great King Nebuchadnezzar in a dream. There was the head of gold, Babylon; the breast and arms of silver, Medo-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass, Greece; the legs of iron, Rome. All combined to make a great and powerful image. But as the king looked, "a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, which smote the image upon his feet. Then was the iron, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Daniel stood before the king, and interpreted this troublesome vision. He pointed out that the head of gold was Babylon, and that three other world powers would rise after her. But in the days of the last, that is, when world dominance was exercised by Rome, he declared, "In the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

Thus, at the time when the mighty Caesars held sway over the whole earth there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the Savior of the world. He lived for thirty-three years, a life of gentleness and compassion. Then he was nailed to the cross of Golgotha. Writhing and twisting in anguish with the sins of the world gnawing at His heart, as the nails tore at the flesh of His hands and feet, He died, a spectacle of shame and disgrace—died as an accursed

criminal, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree." They buried him in the new tomb. The door was sealed, as the rock was rolled against it. But earth could not contain Him. He burst the bars of death. He came forth a risen conqueror—to become "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

And on the Pentecost after His resurrection, the God of heaven set up His kingdom—the church. It shall never be destroyed. It shall not be broken in pieces. It shall not be captured by or left to other people. It shall in itself break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms. The skulking, brutal-jawed, self-worshipping, immoral, lustful sawdust Caesar, Mussolini went down. Before what? The same power that crumbled mighty Rome of Julius Caesar! For the few apostles of old, fishermen and tax-collectors, spread a gospel of good deeds and justice for all men, and the mighty politicians of ancient Rome were forced to "fold their tents like the Arabs and as silently steal away." And now in our own time, we have seen the powers of truth and right prevail over one who would have reincarnated the kingdom of Nero, and who proudly boasted that he would make the empire of the Caesars, the empire of world control today. But he is dead, crumpled by the bullets of his own countrymen. Dead! Hanging by his heels, in ignominy and shame, in the public square. He who reviled men, who drove them like cattle, in death is spit upon, beaten, until his eyes set by the rigor of mortality bulge from the head which dreamed such speculations and originated such fancies.

And Adolf Hitler! The fuehrer of the Third Reich! Where is he? A few months ago, he was the most-feared man upon earth. His name was whispered in awe by his own satellites, and with dread by the freedom-loving nations of the earth. Hitler! Inventor of the blitzkrieg, author of *Mein Kampf*, would-be God to his fanatical worshippers! Where is he? Despised, hated, reviled, maligned! If dead, gone to meet his deeds at the judgment bar of Almighty God whom he spurned; if alive, to be hounded and dogged until at last his neck is drawn by the tightening of the hangman's noose. Such is the end of all who think they can laugh at God's promise and escape the supreme penalty.

But you ask, Why, if such is the will of God, that America had to send her sons to wet the soil of foreign fields with the

crimson stream which flowed from their dying hearts? Why did not God himself intervene, and put an end to this suffering and anguish, with a bolt from heaven, or with a stroke that would have cut down these arrogant braggarts? And I answer! Listen, America! We have had to fight and suffer and know pain and tears and sweat and blood, because we deserved it! We have forgotten God! We have turned our churches into gambling dens; our worship into vain lip-service. We have been proud and boastful, and cry out in our swelling pride, "Look what we have done." We have turned the Lord's Days into pleasure days; Sundays have become Fun Days; and the Bible lies unopened day after day upon our tables.

We have tried to settle our problems standing proudly, rather than on bended knees. And I call upon you to remember this day, that America has been a land of wickedness, of lust, of murder, of adultery, of desertion. We have passed through a fearful nightmare of horror and war. Will it bring us closer to God? Will we reverence Him and thank Him? Will we study His Word and bow before Him? O, people, let me plead with you this day to return unto God. Certainly His edicts shall stand. His promises shall not fail. But if we continue in the path of arrogance and assumption, we, too, may some day see ourselves in the same condition of our enemies this day. God still rules! He lives on high! Forsake your sins on this day of gladness. Humble yourself before His mighty hand. Love His truth. Obey His precepts. Honor His name! Thus you will bring assurance that you and your posterity can be preserved from the ravages of another cruel struggle. We pray for you, for America, and for the stricken world!

If you are not a Christian this day, the greatest thing you can do to help preserve America is to become a child of God. More than anything else, we need humble, sincere, sanctified, consecrated Christian service to our God. Open your heart and let Jesus come in, He is standing at the door, don't you hear Him knocking?

## HORSE RACING AND THE CHRISTIAN RACE

I'm going to talk about some things this afternoon which may make me a little unpopular with a lot of those who listen in. But I feel the burden of these matters upon my heart, and I am certain that someone ought to have the courage to state the facts. I have never been willing to hold back the truth, just because of the way others may feel about it, so here goes.

Last Sunday, this nation observed a day of prayer and humility for the victory of the Allied forces in Europe. On bended knee, with tear-dimmed eyes, and sincere hearts, we bowed before the throne of Almighty God and expressed to Him our appreciation for His watchful care, and loving mercy. We did that at the request of our President, and because it is right to do it, according to the Bible, our precious guide book. I thrilled to read the words of President Truman, which I now quote, "For the triumph of spirit and of arms which we have won and for its promise to people everywhere who join us in the love of freedom, it is fitting that we as a nation give thanks to Almighty God, who has strengthened us and given us the victory."

Imagine, therefore, my surprise when I read that the curfew was lifted on entertainments and night clubs, making it possible for them to continue open past the midnight hour, and in some instances all night. And further, almost the first step of the government was to once more authorize horse and dog racing, with their attendant gambling, drinking, and carousing. We are trying to compromise with the forces of evil in this country. In one breath we announce that God has given the victory, and before the words grow cold, turn right around and give the green light and the "Go" sign to the devil, to start his damnable, hellish seduction of souls. America is letting herself in for some more punishment, if I can read the Old Book correctly. God isn't going to stand for a hypocritical nation bowing before Him one day in mock humility, then going as fast toward hell as they can on the Monday following.

We're still at war! We were told on V-E Day to stay with our jobs! Then, why turn these saloons, gambling dives, and

immoral hell-holes loose to run full tilt all night long, and make delinquency and absenteeism a hundred times worse? People cannot make a round of taverns and dance halls all night long and do a good job at the lathe or cutting machine next day. You can't praise God with one breath, and then with drunken tongue and bleary eyes, go stumbling down the street the next moment, and expect to be blessed.

How do our boys who are in the Pacific look at this? Gordon Cobbledick, war correspondent on Okinawa, wrote of the reaction of a lot of GI's to the news. Here is a part of what they said. One soldier asked, "What are they going to do back in the States—get drunk and forget about us out here?" Another said, "So they'll open the race tracks and turn on the lights and give people all the gas they want, and let us go to hell, for all they care." Another said, "They'll think the war is over and they'll quit their jobs and leave us to fight these Japs with pocket knives." I count it one of the most morale-destroying moves ever made by this government to turn America loose and let them go on an immoral rampage and spiritual binge at the very time when we were told to engage in prayer and thank God for victory. No wonder the forlorn troops on the Pacific isles think they are forgotten by a bunch of hard-drinking, crap-shooting, race-betting individuals who remain over here!

And the news releases further tell us that shipment of race horses will be permitted. Why, you cannot even have a church gathering where more than fifty people come on the train, without getting permission from the ODT. The rail lines are too crowded. But you can ship a bunch of plugs in comfort from one race track to another, and we have to like it. Racing and entertainment have the priority over religion and the spiritual well-being of our people. This is a direct slap in the face of Almighty God, and is a dishonor to a nation which calls itself Christian. Wake up, America! I'm for realizing that we are still at war. We still need God. Let's cut out a lot of this tomfoolery and monkey business and get to work and win the war. This is no time to go on a drunken spree. It is no time to turn loose and go all-out for the devil. We're losing boys while I talk to you—boys who are shedding their blood to assure us the freedom to worship God. Are they dying in vain?

This nation is two-faced and double-tongued! It is straddling the spiritual fence, walking spraddle-legged with one foot on the devil's territory, and still trying to keep the other over on God's side. Beer is not rationed, and men can step up to the bar, and guzzle down foaming suds any time they please. But you can't even buy a quart of grape juice for the communion service without spending fifty points for it. And when you go to the ration board for coupons necessary to get the element required to observe the Lord's Supper, you almost have to beg for them, but you can pass by a dozen stores and liquor dealers on the way and see every conceivable kind of intoxicant advertised for sale.

It's hard to get a good Bible because paper is rationed. But the newsstands still feature plenty of cheap pulp-magazines with their sugar-coated lies, and sensuous lust-feeding stories. My Bible tells me, "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord." I believe that if we truly serve the Lord, He will be with us, protect us, lead us, and guide us. But I do not believe that a nation can exist if it tries to carry water on both shoulders. And the featuring of those things which eat like a cancer at our national existence, the while we ridicule those things that really count, will bring the wrath of heaven upon us.

The same God is over us today who governed Israel. To them He spoke, saying, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and His statutes and His testimonies, which He hath commanded thee. And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to cast out all thine enemies before thee, as the Lord hath spoken" (Deuteronomy 6:17-19).

Victory over our enemies is the heritage of God. Listen to Him again, "But the Lord thy God shall deliver your enemies unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction until they be destroyed. And He shall deliver their kings into thy hands, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou hast destroyed them" (Deuteronomy 7:23, 24). But what happens to the people of God when they follow after false gods? What will God do to those who claim to love Him, when they become guilty of idola-

try? Let us read! "And it shall be, if thou do at all forget thy God, and walk after other gods and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the Lord destroyed before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 8:19, 20). Now, friends, that is plain!

If we want God to bless us, we must obey Him! He will forsake us if we forsake Him. And this nation is making a pretense of lip-service but their hearts are far from Jehovah this day! The indictment of old is applicable to this land. Listen to it! "They have corrupted themselves; their spot is not the spot of His children: they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus repay the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? is not He thy Father that hath brought thee? hath He not made thee and established thee?" (Deuteronomy 32:5, 6). And once more I read, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed shall live. That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that they mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days" (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20).

You have noticed that I have quoted from Deuteronomy this day. It is true when Christ was tempted by Satan, that three times he went to this same book, drew the sword of the Spirit from the scabbard of Moses, and used it to overthrow the devil. I plead with you this day to read this book more frequently. Let it be a warning against the idleness and idolatry of this day. Let it call our hearts back in fearful warning unto perfect obedience. Let America know that she stands by the grace of God! Let her not forget that she will go down like Germany if she will not repent!

## WHAT KIND OF A BIRD ARE YOU?

It is a very common thing for us to compare people with animals or fowls, due to the likeness in certain of their characteristics. The Bible does the same. You will recall that Paul said, "Beware of dogs." Now, when he made that statement, he did not have in mind the four-legged canines that rush out from the various houses along the streets, barking at you as if you were a rank intruder, going to molest the property of their masters. Paul was talking about two-legged dogs. He knew that there were some men who were snappy, snarling, ill-tempered, growling and fierce. He knew that often they would sneak up on an unsuspecting victim and engage in backbiting, as a dog will wait until you pass the gate, and then sail out and grab you by the heel. There are a lot of men in the world who act like dogs!

You recall that Peter also said that there were some who were like the swine. He mentions those who have been washed and cleansed, but then have gone back like a hog to wallowing in the mire. What an apt picture of a prodigal backslider! I recall once being in a home where the boy was a member of a 4-H pig club. The county fair occurred while I was there. Well, sir, that lad spent two days getting his pig ready. On the day of the showing he was up before daylight. He shined the hoofs until they sparkled. He combed and brushed the hair on that pig until it fairly glistened. It was about as nice looking as any perambulating porker I have ever seen. And it took one of the prizes. Late that evening we got home, and the hog was unloaded in its pen. As if it had been completely bored with the day's proceedings, it immediately walked over in one corner, where there was a pool of sticky, clammy, bubbling mud, waded out into it, and with a grunt that betokened the greatest satisfaction, it lay down in what must have been to it the very essence of hog heaven. And I know men like that!

We speak of those who are fierce as a lion, crazy as a loon, silly as an ass, black as a crow, and stubborn as a mule. Sometimes we say that a person is "just playing 'possum." We declare that another is "as proud as a peacock." We designate another as a "silly goose." And since this type of speech is so common

among us, I am certain that you will agree I am justified today in telling all of you parents who listen that you are one of two kinds of birds, with regard to your children. Both of these are mentioned in the Bible.

The first is the stork. Do you know why it is that the stork has been selected as the very symbol of childbirth? Do you know why it is that its figure appears as a trademark on much of the infant's wear? I'm going to tell you! The stork is respected in many countries for its great devotion to its young. In Holland and western Germany, it is considered a great crime to kill or cripple one of these birds. The residents believe that it is an omen of good fortune to have the nest of one built upon their chimney. And the stork deserves a lot of that genuine appreciation.

When the stork mates, it does so for life! It is not fickle, flirting with first one companion and then another. So deep is the devotion that exists among these life partners that when one dies, the mate will often grieve itself to death. Hollywood could learn a lesson in good sense from the stork, don't you think? It is ridiculous, amazing, and absurd, the distrust that is shown in marital relationships today. The divorce courts are like mills which grind out a grist of broken hearts and homes. But the sad part of it all is that the home is the foundation of stability in any nation. When the home is broken up, when men and women act like cattle or animals in shameful, unbridled, uncontrolled lust toward each other, the basic structure of civilization will go down. America is on the toboggan of disaster. In many instances marriage ceremonies have become but legalized means of prostitution. There is no respect for authority, law, or sacred promise any longer! Men haven't as much sense as a stork!

But the thing that I like best about the birds we have mentioned is their sincere and unabated devotion to their offspring. We can go farther, and state that among these birds there is genuine love for each other; and of the young for the old, and the old toward the young. The parents will fly for miles, and battle storms and gales, to secure food for their helpless fledglings, and when they have made their return journey and perch upon the edge of the home of sticks, such rejoicing takes place, one would think they had been separated for days instead of minutes. Many

times the father or mother has sacrificed life in order to save one of the little birds.

How different it is in these days! Now, the fathers and mothers of human offspring, bearing the image of the Creator and given eternal existence, will abandon their helpless little ones, and continue selfishly having a good time. A few days ago a young mother strangled her baby in the bathtub, because its crying interfered with her sleep after she had been to a dance all night on Saturday. Another mother threw her little one into the river, because the soldier who was its father refused to marry her. Still another broke the neck of her little boy and crammed him into the furnace, where she built a fire around the body and let it consume into ashes. Oh, God of Heaven, the sin and crime for which this generation must pay in the last great judgment day!

Mothers and fathers gallivant around to taverns, drink and carouse, dance and damn their souls to hell, while their helpless little children are crying, neglected, or turned over to someone else who has no interest in them, beyond the money that is received for taking care of them. I tell you who hear me this day, that just as sure as there is a God above, just as sure as the Bible is true, just as sure as there is a judgment day in which our secret sins are made known—just that sure there are some who will burn in the flames of everlasting hell for their heartless, cruel, ungodly and damnable refusal to accept the responsibilities of parenthood and love. Men actually become lower than the animals! For the brute world will defend its little ones unto death, but men will neglect their little ones and let them die!

And the Bible tells us that there is a bird which is typical of just the kind of negligence and parental delinquency which we find among us today. That bird is the ostrich! Let me read you what the good Book says, "The ostrich leaveth her eggs in the earth and warmeth them with the dust, and forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them. She is hardened against her young ones as though they were not hers: her labor is in vain without fear, because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath He imparted to her understanding." Once more the Bible says, "Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones; but my people have

become cruel like the ostriches in the wilderness" (Lamentations 4:3).

Are you a human ostrich? Or are you a human stork? Concerning the latter, I find this, "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times . . . but my people know not the judgment of the Lord" (Jeremiah 8:7). I consider that the greatest career on earth is that of Christian motherhood. The future of the world will be shaped not at the conference at San Francisco. It will not be guaranteed by a meeting of Truman, Churchill and Stalin! Instead, the hope of our nation will rest, as it has always rested, in the hearts of the mothers, who rear our children. The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.

If the mothers of today will instill the truth of God and His teaching into the hearts of their trustful little ones; if their babies imbibe the spirit of obedience to our Maker with the milk from their mothers' breasts; then, and then only, will the future of this world be one of peace and love! It is a tragedy to me to see that even as mothers have placed their all upon the altar of the god of conflict, that other and younger mothers are still pursuing that course of procedure that will bring us once more to the sorrow and suffering of an even worse global war. People, let us come to our knees before Almighty God! Let us resolve that out of this maelstrom of world pain and agony there shall come a brighter day! It can only be thus if we love each other and our God. If parents are not willing to die for their children, then their children will have to die for the sins of their parents. For the neglect, coldness, lack of affection, and callous disregard of those things that count in life, will bring about world strife and misery. Let me plead with you to come back unto God before it is too late!

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Two weeks ago I took occasion to voice my protest against the hypocrisy manifested in this nation by those who are in authority. I pointed out that upon one Sunday we were encouraged to bow before Almighty God and render thanks for the cessation of hostilities in Europe, and before we could get to our knees, an order was issued opening the dog and horse racing tracks and lifting the curfew on taverns, hot night spots, and sensual entertainment places. I asked at the time that my listeners write me their feelings upon the talk, and scores of them did. But not all favored the position I took. Bitter opposition was aroused in some circles. There were those who thought it none of our business that while our boys are dying in the jungles of Pacific islands that people in this country were going on in gay abandon, drinking, carousing, gambling, and generally living in such a way as to demonstrate that they have no permanent thought of God.

One gentleman at least ventured the thought that if I was a minister I should confine myself to the gospel and let other people alone. He said it was enough to preach the Bible without condemning the personal pleasure of those about us, and he upheld drinking and gambling as being the right of a church member, affirming that he indulged therein, and yet was a member of a religious body. That brings me to the realization that there are a lot of people in this old world who do not even know what the gospel is. They have no more conception of the job which preachers should perform than a lot of the preachers have. I want to ask the question today as to just what constitutes the gospel? What should we preach? What should we uphold? What should we condemn?

Is it right to condemn the gambling which churches do within their precincts—the bingo parties, quilt raffles, chance selling, worldly carnivals, and all the rest of the carnal claptrap used to raise money to pay some preacher's salary? If you say it isn't, then I want to ask you if Jesus did wrong. Listen! "And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and said unto

them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:12, 13). Jesus said, "I came to do the will of Him that sent Me." When He was kneeling in the shadow of the cross, He said to God, "I have finished the work that Thou gavest Me to do." If it was God's will to drive the moneychangers and thieves out of religious places then, is it any less His will now? Can a man faithfully follow the Son of God and not lift up his voice against the corruption, thievery and gambling that goes on under the name of religion today?

The whole trouble with the world right now is that religion is in disrepute. It is no longer respected. Preachers are principally responsible for that. Many of them will drink social cocktails, frequent theaters, smoke, and play cards, and in general act just like the rest of the world. Naturally those who look to them for religious guidance feel it is proper to do those things, and now you can't tell the church from the world. And few men have the courage to stand out against the damnable, hellish lives of those who profess to be Christians, but are serving the devil. Thus it has at last arrived at the place where men think that the gospel is a sickly, syrupy, sweetened, sentimental sob-sister something, which will let every man do that which is right in his own sight, without condemnation.

But when Jesus saw religious people about Him who kneeled and made long petitions to God and then got out and lied and stole, He said, "You Pharisees, hypocrites, you devour the estates remaining to widows and then for a pretense make long prayers to cover up your wickedness." Was that the gospel? When He saw a group of religious zealots who were anxious to talk various ones into uniting with their sectarian group, then led such additions off into the lives of shameful abomination, He said, "You hypocrites, you'll cover the land and sea trying to make one proselyte, and then when you get him, you make him twofold more a child of hell than yourselves." Was that preaching the gospel?

Shall a man who is a preacher let this great nation go down because of its immorality and never lift his voice against it? When he sees the brazen adultery, fornication and open lust, shall he

speak or remain silent as the tomb? Shall he lift up his voice against the open sin which fills our divorce courts with petitions, and our land with broken homes, broken hearts and broken lives? Shall he wrap the sanctimonious robes of his self-righteousness closer about his precious ecclesiastical form, and refuse to declare the truth against the pollution and moral sewage which empties into the stream of national existence today? Well, the apostle Paul said, "The things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (Timothy 2:2). He said, "I charge thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and kingdom, Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:1,2). I want to preach the same gospel as Paul preached. He said if an angel from heaven preached any other he would be accursed. I believe that! Did Paul preach a nice, easy, smooth sermon and let other people alone to do what they pleased?

What did he do about lust and fornication? Listen! "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10). He didn't let them alone, did he?

Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth" (Romans 1:16). What did he do when he observed the drunkenness so prevalent in his day? Did he let members of the church continue to tolerate the then existent equivalent of taverns, beer joints, juke joints and honkytonks? I know there are a lot of modern preachers who are afraid to come out against such things, but Paul was a gospel preacher and filled with the Holy Spirit of God. How did he handle this problem? Did he use "kid gloves"? Listen again! "Now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Corinthians 5:11). That

proves that the church cannot be faithful to the gospel and still tolerate and endorse such characters in its membership. Paul says, "Put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (I Corinthians 5:13). But the thing that amazes me is how many people there are who claim to be against these things and yet they will go right back and fellowship institutions which will maintain within their membership every conceivable wicked character. Come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing, saith the Lord.

This isn't the first time that there are those who have protested when a preacher of the gospel hit sin. It isn't the first time that they have begged one to cease his approach. I remember that when Jesus was still on earth, He met one who was filled with devils, and the devils cried out, "Let us alone, thou Jesus of Nazareth! Why hast thou come hither to torment us before our time?" People do not like to have their sins pointed out. They are like the devils in that they do not want to be tormented before the time arrives when they shall be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

But I want to serve notice here and now, that as long as I am permitted to lift my voice against sin, as long as I am able to let the truth be known in its fulness; I am going to fight the devil and all that he stands for. I'll fight him in religion as well as in the world. Sin is not glorified because a group of hypocritical church members indulge in it. And I have not changed my mind one bit in the two weeks since I spoke to you. I still say that unless America really repents, and returns to God, she is due for a further baptism in blood, and sweat and tears. Almighty God, grant that we shall learn our lesson of sorrow and suffering and turn unto Thee with all our hearts and souls. The future is dark unless we do!

## DEAD MAN'S THROTTLE

A recent news release tells of a Pennsylvania Railroad train enroute from Florida to New York City, which ground to a halt, near Rahway, New Jersey, with a dead man at the throttle. Engineer James L. Crow, 61, was slumped in his seat. A Rahway physician attributed his death to a heart attack. An automatic device—"dead man's throttle"—braked the train to an abrupt halt. Several hundred passengers were jolted but not a one of them sustained an injury.

It has been my privilege to be associated with railroad men for a number of years. I have donned overalls and spoken to them in roundhouses, shops and other places where they have halted work for safety meetings. It has repeatedly been said by officials that every rule and every safety device has been written in blood. That simply means that someone lost his life by a careless practice, or as a result of hazardous equipment. And as each man paid the penalty, a rule has been worked out for the safeguarding of others, until today the Safety Rule Book of the railroads is a masterpiece of protection for those who follow its dictates.

A few years ago there was a serious train wreck. Several people lost their lives. For awhile it could not be determined as to what caused it. There was no defect found in the operating equipment and it was finally decided that the "human factor" was responsible. And the physicians who examined the engineer learned that he had not been killed in the wreck at all, but instead had died from heart trouble, and his death had been responsible for the wreck, and the loss of life among the remainder of the crew and the passengers on board. It was then that the company installed the "dead man" protection, and equipped all engines with a device which immediately "sets the air" on the Westinghouse brakes, when the body slumps against it. Thus the lives of those who are riding are insured against the death of the man who manipulates the engine.

It occurs to me, however, that no such safety device has ever yet been invented which will protect those living from the influence of an evil life, even after the sinner is dead. Let me illustrate. Here is a father who is addicted to drunkenness. Because

he does not control his habit, but indulges it freely in the presence of his children, they are soon led to adopt it also. In the innocence of youth, they think that whatever daddy does is all right. Those children grow up and follow after a wild and profligate life. They become married, and children are born to them! Meanwhile the first parent has died. But his evil influence goes on after his body has mouldered into dust. His grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren, may be led to untimely graves, all because of the wickedness of this one, who could not see the terrible results of his life of wrong and shame.

There is no dead man's throttle to protect those who come behind! I am thinking today of one who in his younger years of married life abused his faithful companion, ridiculed her efforts to live right, and made life as miserable for her as he could. Their children grew up in that atmosphere. Deliberately the father taught them to swear because he knew that it hurt the heart of the mother. Maliciously he taught them to drink because he knew it would wring the tears from her eyes. Years went by and finally the father realized what a fool he had been. He started to go to church. He began to read the Bible. He obeyed the gospel. Then he started in to attempt to save the souls of his children. They cursed him to his face with the very words he had taught them. In their drunken reveling they made fun of him for being religious. The father died of a broken heart and one of his sons was too drunk to go to the funeral. And therein lies the danger of "sowing your wild oats." You may some day realize the fool you have been. But what about those others whom you have seduced and led astray? What about the other lives that you have wrecked in your immorality? You may see the day that you would give your life to recall the things you have done, but it will be to no avail.

I know men who listen to this program and who say that they are going to start serving God before long. They are waiting until they are perfectly ready to do it, but the proper time has not arrived just yet. Around them are others who are dying in sin—unprepared to meet God in the Judgment! But they never think of themselves in that state. They know that they have plenty of days ahead. Some of them in a dark moment will be snatched from this life, and hurled into the presence of God and

the angels without being given another opportunity. What will their answer be?

But suppose that you do have fifty years more to spend on earth? Suppose that you have ample opportunity to repent, and do turn to God? What about the hearts and lives of those about you, being influenced to serve the devil and walk the road that leads to destruction? Do you have any assurance that they will ever come to God? You fathers and mothers, who love your children as you say, and yet who leave them alone at night while you frequent the tavern, the saloon, the night club, or the theater—will the time come as you grow older and your hair turns to gray, that you will be praying for God to save your own loved ones for eternity—save them from the effects of the very life into which you led them?

I know some of you never go to church. It is "sissyfied" to do it! You sleep late on Sunday and arise after your gambling session which has lasted through the long hours of Saturday night into the Lord's Day, with a splitting headache and a dark brown taste in your mouth. You have little enough sense to think that such is enjoyment. But when you are old and feeble, and your body is exhausted with the demands which you have made upon it as you live in abuse and degradation, will you give all that you have to try and reclaim that lost health? Will you upon bended knee pray for those whom the Lord gave into your care and who, neglected and forsaken by you, have walked the downward path, until they are beyond reclamation? I ask you if your conscience does not hurt you when you think of the innocent lives you are leading astray?

The only way that you can be certain that your loved ones will be safe when you have departed this life is to show them the road of happiness while you are still with them. The Bible says "Train up the child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Not in vain does the great apostle declare, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It is not that you should bring them up and try to get them into the admonition of the Lord, but *bring them up in that way.*

You may never be able to leave your children houses and lands. You may never be able to give them an estate of a million dollars. But you can give them something worth far more—the example of a Christian life. And if, when your loved ones pass by your casketed form; if, when their tears fall down upon your cold and unresponsive face; they can say, “Thank God, daddy was a Christian,” it will repay you for all the sacrifices you have made! And best of all, it will assure that those boys and girls can carry on as you would have them live, faithful and sincere to their God.

There is no dead man’s throttle to protect others after you are gone. You must seek to protect them for that time while you still live. No automatic apparatus has ever been produced to do this. The only way is by the age-old method set forth by Moses, the lawgiver and seer, when he said, “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thy eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them, thy sons, and thy sons’ sons” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

The future of this nation is in the hands of the fathers and mothers who hear this day. If you will earnestly teach the way of life to your children, then your influence for good will not cease at the grave. The setting sun of your life will be the rising sun in the hearts of those whom you have brought into the world. Let the law of the Lord be your constant guide that you and your loved ones may receive the blessing of heaven!

## A GREAT CAPTAIN DIES

Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., was buried on Okinawa this week. He was the highest ranking officer to give his life for the cause of freedom in the Pacific theater of conflict. And in many ways, he was one of the most outstanding leaders in our armed forces. Too, he was undoubtedly the savior of our Alaskan territorial possessions at the outset of the Japanese attempt to gain landings on our soil. Working quietly behind the scenes in the Aleutians, since even before Pearl Harbor, he fought weather, terrain and our own indifference and built secret bases. When the Japanese attacked Dutch Harbor in 1942, they were amazed to find fighters coming at them from their backs. They were repulsed and driven off in ignominious defeat because air fields had been built in this wild area by General Buckner.

This Kentucky-born fighting man was big and strong. On one occasion he swung jauntily ahead of a weary column of marching men, carrying several extra packs and rifles belonging to those many years younger who had dropped from exhaustion. He was stern in discipline, yet he looked after the welfare of his men. He shared their privations, went ahead of them and tested ability to endure. He asked them to do nothing that he was not willing to do himself. When two types of Arctic boots were proposed for use in Alaska, he tried one kind on his left foot and the other on his right, going for long hikes over rocks and ice to determine which type was better for his soldiers. He also tested sleeping bags when it was 60 below zero.

It seems to me that all of these qualities which we have mentioned are essential to good leadership in carnal warfare. In some sense at least, they are just as requisite in our spiritual battles. And I want to talk to you today about the greatest commanding general who ever lived, the captain of our salvation—Jesus Christ! He possesses, without controversy, every trait necessary to perfect leadership. Those who follow Him into the warfare against sin can go with perfect confidence that they will win, if they but obey His commands. And since we are all on one side or the other of this great battle today, it is well for us to consider our leader.

Jesus came to this earth in order that He might try all the

powers which oppose us, and make it safe for us to go forward in service to Him. He tested the power of Satan in temptation. You will recall that immediately after His baptism, He was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Threefold trial was made of His divine Sonship. He was tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. He overcame them all. How did He do it? He did it by his familiarity with the Word of God and His ability to quote the passage that put Satan to flight.

Now, we are tempted identically as Jesus was. The devil has changed his tactics perhaps, but he has not changed the bait on his hook in 6,000 years. He doesn't need to. There are plenty who still fall for it. The Bible says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, are not of the Father, but of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God, abideth forever." Those are the things which still test us. The Book again testifies that "Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet was without sin." It gives unto us the remedy for overcoming Satan when it says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Perhaps the one thing that most people fear and dread is death. Jesus tested it, to see whether it should be such a fearsome and grim monster to His people. I read for you in the words of the apostle Paul, "He by the grace of God should Taste death for every man." Now, the word "taste" there means just what it does in your kitchen. You know that when preparing a meal, you stop occasionally to taste the food. You are attempting to see whether it has the right flavor, or if the seasoning is just right. In short, you are testing it out, to see how it will appeal to others. That's what Jesus did in our behalf. And He found that death need not be feared at all.

Let me read for you one of the most assuring passages in the Bible. It is found in 1 Corinthians 15:13-20. "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because

we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead raise not. For if the dead rise not, then is Christ not raised; and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope of Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept."

Listen again, this time to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words."

There is no concern in my heart today relative to the issues of death and the resurrection. I know that Jesus died, that He was buried, that He was raised again for my justification, that He is now seated on the right hand of God, and that some day He shall return to claim His own. I know it because as my captain, He went ahead, tried and tested the things that cause dread, and has written down the glad words of the gospel, making me know that ahead is peace for the faithful.

Sometimes the leader of an earthly army is not a leader at all. He is a follower. True, he may plan the battle, but he stays far to the rear and sends his men forward. The general about whom I spoke at the beginning was not such a man. He believed in going forward with his men. When General Buckner was killed by shrapnel, he was at a command post, looking right down on the field of battle. He did not drive his men to flight, and hang behind.

That is true of Jesus also. He does not drive anyone. No one is conscripted for his army, and those who enlist must still follow because of their love and respect for, and their devotion to, this great captain of the soul. Do you recall these words in Psalm 23? "He leadeth me beside the still waters. . . . He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." "He leadeth me!" That's the way the Lord was said to do in the Old Testament. Has He changed? No, for I read once again, "When He putteth forth His own sheep. He goeth before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice." Are you following Him this day? If not, it is because you do not know His voice. You have never read His blessed Word!

Jesus does not compel you to come into His fold this day. He wants you to if you are willing to serve Him. He needs you for the work that He must do on earth to save souls. But you'll have to make your own decision. You'll have to choose before it is too late to make that choice. I call attention to the reward that awaits those who decide for Jesus and then continue to fight the good fight of faith until the end comes. Of such it is said in Revelation 3:21, "To him that overcometh I will grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

We are interested in your soul this day! Are you? Remember that the Savior declares, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." He has gone ahead. He has mapped the heavenly route! It leads home by the way of the cross—your cross and His. Take up that cross this day and let us go after our glorious leader to a better and more perfect world. He is calling! Will you heed that call today?

## PUTTING GOD LAST

I sat in my room one day this last week reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. Once more there was borne home to me the parallel existing between God's ancient people, Israel, and this nation which claims to love that same Jehovah today. Surely, we ought to meditate upon the yesterdays of the old world in which we live, knowing that the tomorrows will be but mere repetitions. "History repeats itself" is an adage which has shown its worth time after time again. Thus the very same stirring indictments which were uttered against the hypocrisy of ancient Israel might without alteration be pronounced against the spiritual Israel of today.

And it is my firm conviction that we need today men like the prophets of old—preachers who will stand without wavering and fear before kings and monarchs—men who will dare to proclaim the displeasure of high heaven upon a sin-cursed world. I want you to listen as the old prophet pronounces the Word of God, "I have spread out My hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; a people that provoketh me to anger continually to My face" (Isaiah 65:2, 3).

Isn't that true of America today? Remember that the expression "spread out My hands" means simply that God has entreated and implored and begged His people to do right. And He says, "I have done this all the day." From the dawn of day until the setting of the sun, God has besought us to obey Him. What is the result? Just as it was in the days of yore! The people of this so-called, misnamed Christian nation have rebelled, walked in a way that was not good, followed their own thoughts, and provoked God to anger.

God has commanded us to "Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is!" He has given us in His Word the solemn injunction of Jesus, relative to the Lord's Supper, saying, "This do in remembrance of Me!" He has supplied us with the history of the early church as a guide, telling us that "the disciples met together upon the first day of the week to break bread." Have we forsaken the assembly today? Thou-

sands in this area have done so. The parks are filled with a milling mass of humanity today. Picnic grounds are thronged with those who made no pretense of going to worship. The banks of the streams, the highways of the country, the roads to pleasure resorts are lined with those who have turned their backs upon God. In many places there were empty pews in the churches this day. Those who should have occupied them have slept late, and forsaken the command of the Lord of Hosts.

The golf links are crowded to capacity. The ball games will draw capacity audiences as well. One wonders what the result would be if Jesus were to suddenly appear. What would your answer be? What would you say to Him who gave up everything to die for you, when you will not even live for Him? The Lord's Day has been given over to Satan; Sunday has become the great fun day of the world. Church is left in the lurch; God is eliminated from our hearts; in mad, giddy, whirling, carousing, insane desire for gratification of our fleshly lust, we are provoking Him to anger continually to His face.

What's going to be the end of all of this neglect of the things that really count? Can man go on and sow to the wind without reaping the whirlwind? Can we tread the primrose path toward hell without receiving the wages of death? If we dance to the sound of the devil's flute, will we not have to pay the piper? Listen once more to the solemn words of the sacred text. God is speaking! Hear Him! "Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because, when I called, none did answer; when I spake, none did hear: but they did evil before Mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

America, you are not fooling God! You are only deceiving yourself! This last week at San Francisco, the representatives of the United Nations with a great flourish affixed their names to the document which is to be a step toward the preservation of world peace. I pray that it may be! But, I'm telling you, that unless we turn back to God with all of our hearts, such documents will only serve to mock our hopes in the future, as the son of the flesh mocked the son of the promise in the days of Abraham. Sec-

retary of State Stettinius declared that this great achievement was due to God's protecting power. Well and good! But we cannot help recalling that he was the same chairman who opened that convention of delegates without praying to God Almighty, because there were some idol-worshipping nations represented. It's not becoming to an important nation, as we claim to be, to put God under the table when we have company, just because one of our partners is an unbelieving, Christ-defying atheist.

Are we so ashamed of Christ that we ask Him to hide in the closet until we get the document signed? Are we so afraid that the world will think we have religious tendencies, that we take every means to keep them from knowing that we are Christian? If these statesmen really believe that God is responsible for permanent peace, then how on earth will they ever convert those other image-worshipping, agnostic, idolatrous nations, by acting ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ? There's too much hiding of God both privately and publicly in this land today! You can't get by with that!

One of those who has been transporting as many as fifteen children to our daily Vacation Bible Study, where they can be kept off the street and taught to reverence God and right, went to the ration board a few days ago and asked if he might have a few gallons of extra gas for use in this purpose. He had to fill out a form. In a few days it came back with the words stamped across it, "No gas available for this purpose!" Now, we are not lamenting because no favoritism was shown us, but I want you to know what is being done in a Christian nation!

There's no arrangement made to get five gallons of gas to take little children to the House of the Lord and teach them to become good citizens, but there are hundreds of cars every day which drive to a horse racing track in this area. There, the occupants of those cars gamble, swear, drink and yell like frenzied fools. They get the gas to do that with! There's no gas to take little children unto the lowly Nazarene who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me!" But pass a night club out in the county on the way to church, and the parking lot is filled with cars. The occupants of those automobiles spend their time in sipping highballs, downing "rot gut" liquor, driving from side-to-side down the road, and

parking in out-of-the-way spots on the highway where they may follow the lust of their drunken excitement. They get the gas for that! There's no gas to take little boys and girls to church and let them shape their plastic minds by the great precepts of eternal truth—the truth which will save this nation—but there will be hundreds of cars in the parking lots and along the curbs at the ball fields in our city today! There's plenty of gas for that!

Now, a lot of you are not going to like this! That makes no difference! Before God, I cannot be true to the trust which has been given me and remain still while the nation that I love dances her way merrily into the flames of hell. Like it or not, you know it's the truth, and I dare you to deny it! We have the wherewithal to serve the devil, but God is left outside. Jesus stands today, just as He pictures himself in the Book of Revelation, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open unto Me, I will come into him, and will sup with him and he with Me!" Just think of it—Jesus outside! We've got time for everything but Christ!

Time to read the newspaper, but no time for the Bible! Time to go to the glittering theater, but no time to go to church! Money to spend for the circulation of false propaganda, but none to give for the spreading of the gospel. Time to serve Satan, but no time to welcome Christ into our hearts! Listen to the words of Jeremiah, "Shall not I visit punishment for these things? saith the Lord: shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Let me plead with you to turn back to God this day! This is not a vain warning! It is not an empty threat! The God of Heaven pleads for you all day long. Don't turn away from hearing His voice!

## THE DEATH OF A NATION

During the week just past, the American delegation of the Allied control council reached their headquarters in Berlin. You know that this once great city has been divided into three separate zones, which will be under the control of Russia, Great Britain and the United States. An American Indian hero, Pfc. Harvey Natchees of the Ute Indian Reservation, who wears a Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, was the first one of our troops to enter the center of the capital in the occupation. Thus the great and much feared capital city of the Third Reich has been subdued and brought under control.

Looking into the past, it seems almost incredible that just two years ago the treachery and striking power of Germany were still feared all over the earth. Her factories, though much bombed, were still turning out their quota of planes. Bombs were hurtling into London; German tanks were deploying in the Low Countries; Hitler was still defiant; the people of his land still looked for that miracle whereby they would become world-conquerors.

Now all of that is gone! Cities have been destroyed, a vast army has been captured, and ruin has become the order of the day in Germany. One after another of her proud train of high Nazi officials has committed suicide and all the rest are in the hands of the international court awaiting their trials, and with the shadow of the noose falling over their pathways. We have lived to see a nation destroyed. It was not a case of surrender, either total or otherwise. There was no one or nothing left to surrender. This is a nation, beaten into the dust, whipped into disintegration, completely and thoroughly overwhelmed until a representative government among her own people cannot even be found. There is not a shred of national consciousness left. Germany has gone down, down, down—sunken into the lowest depths of degradation. Hated, despised, this nation which, in thundering tones demanded but a few months ago that the whole world bow before her, is now awaiting the decision as to her fate, from that same civilization which she so ruthlessly and heartlessly attempted to stamp out.

The generations yet to come will study their histories in an attempt to determine what factors contributed to this tremendous overthrow. And we know what the verdict will be. Germany, like other mighty nations of the past, went down because she forgot God. Hitler enthroned his own book, *Mein Kampf*, as the German Bible. He restored the old pagan hero-worship as the religion of his people. They cast Jehovah into the background and worshipped at the shrine of national might. They were idolaters of the worst degree. And they went the way of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. But those nations lived and were great in antiquity. When we read of their downfall, it does not mean so much to us. A great many people think that God does not pay any attention to modern nations. Now, we have it once more proven so that all may see, that no nation can forget God and live. It remains that "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord!"

And in this, we have a startling lesson for ourselves. There are within our own nation those who are Fascist, Communist and Partisan. Those who would subject this "land of the free and the home of the brave" to their own subversive designs. Those who would dethrone God and enthrone human might. We must gird ourselves for the fray, and be ever on the alert that symptoms of idolatry not creep in farther among us, for America has already gone far down the road toward worship of material things as contrasted with spiritual.

It does us good occasionally to read about God's dealings with the nations of yesterday, when those nations wholly forsook Him and followed after their own rebellious hearts. Of such, God predicted their complete overthrow. He prophesied that they could not and would not stand against the armies of those raised up to overthrow them. I recall especially one stirring statement made by Isaiah against ancient Israel, which almost has its counterpart in the world struggle we have witnessed within our own time.

I am reading from Isaiah 30:8-14, "Now go, write it before them in a tablet, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever; that this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord. Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto

us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits; get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and depend upon them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. And He shall break it as the breaking of the potter's vessel that is broken in pieces; He shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in it when it bursts, a sherd to take fire from the hearth or to take water out of the well."

Perhaps that last expression might not mean a lot to us. But let me explain it. In those days the people had outdoor ovens, conical in shape and made of clay. They would build the fire of sticks and weeds and when it was reduced to coals they would do their baking. Since they did not have matches, when the fire went out they would have to borrow coals from a neighbor. Always about the ovens one would find broken fragments of pottery, of sufficient size to carry a few coals of fire. The same thing obtained around the wells outside of the cities. Someone would drop a clay or earthen vessel and when it shattered, there would generally be a fairly good sized piece left. This potsherd would be placed there at the well or spring for the purpose of dipping up water. But God said that when a nation forgot Him, He would so completely destroy them that it would be like bursting a vessel into such little pieces, there would be nothing left big enough to serve any useful purpose at all. Isn't that a good description of Nazi Germany?

Now we note also those first tendencies toward departure from the truth. God says that when people rebel, they will always begin to say to the seers, "See not!" Which means, don't predict calamity for us. We don't want to hear anyone who condemns us for our sins. We are getting along all right, and we are stronger than we have ever been in all of our national career. Don't you know this was exactly what the people in Germany said? They wouldn't listen to men like Niemoeller and Mann. They either put them in concentration camps, banished or killed them. They called them prophets of doom, and killjoys. Even in

Italy, when the world-renowned flyer, Italo Balbo, dared to oppose the alliance with Germany, he was killed under peculiar circumstances which may not have been accidental.

But you don't have to go to Germany or Italy to see how those tendencies work. They are at work among us also. There are churches today which would not tolerate a sermon condemning the sins that are so prevalent upon every side. They are filled with gamblers, drunkards, adulterers, fornicators, liars, thieves, and every conceivable kind of ungodly, worldly characters, and they refuse to listen to sermons which come out and call their damnable sins by the right name. They want to go to church to be entertained. They want a preacher to stand up and talk about the beauties of nature, the glory of the sunset and the enchantment of the dawn. They do not want the gospel!

Once more the cry is going up as in the days of yore, "Prophecy not unto us right things, don't tell us of our faults, don't preach against our sins, don't condemn our hellish, profligate, prodigal lives; but speak unto us smooth things, tell us what we want to hear, tell us that there never has been a people so brilliant, so masterful, so wonderful in the history of the world; prophecy deceits, tell us that God is with us, that we cannot fall, that we can go on in our hypocritical, feigning, pretending lives and still God will protect and care for us!"

Yes, that's the cry of the populace today, and there are preachers all over this land, who for love of money, power and prestige will cater to it, confirm the world in what it's doing, and thus crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame. In the midst of all this commercialization of the gospel, and worldliness in living, I lift up my voice to tell you that all is not well. Unless we come back to God, we too are doomed. Hear His voice today!

## THE SUN'S ECLIPSE

I wonder how many in my audience were privileged to see the eclipse of the sun, which was so plainly visible in this area, one day during the early part of the past week? I'm certain that those of you who were up early and preparing for your day's work noticed this rather awe-inspiring phenomenon as you gazed into the heaven. I looked with interest upon the sight, and I recalled the scripture which said, "The sun shall be turned into darkness." Naturally that bit of prophecy has no reference to the literal sun, for the writer was talking from a spiritual or figurative sense. Yet, the sun in the sky is the source of all our light on earth, and we depend upon it for food, strength, healing and light, as well as many other things. If some power were suddenly to cause that sun to turn to darkness there could be no life, and earth would be immediately reduced to a desert waste.

Just as the sun is the source of so many natural blessings, the Bible is the great light which gives us all spiritual benefits. The same God who gave us one gave us the other. That's what Paul means when he says, "God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the glorious light of the gospel of the Son of God." So James calls Him "the Father of lights." Not just light but "lights," that is, temporal and spiritual light. He brought them into existence, and He maintains them by the power of His might.

What would you think of an individual who began to plot some method whereby he could cause the sun's light to no longer shine, to go into a permanent and total eclipse? I'm sure you would say that such a person would be a fiend of the deepest dye, fit only for the regions of hell, where outer darkness reigns, and weeping and gnashing of teeth constitute the accompaniment for the torment of lost souls. I'm sure no one would be foolish enough to try to blot out the rays of the life-giving sun. But do you know that there are those who today plot and scheme to eclipse the solar light of God's gospel, and cause it to cease to send forth its brightness? It's a fact!

There are learned men who sit in high places in our educational world and who throw a smoke-screen of doubt and speculation

up around the plain teachings of the Grand Old Book. They stand before their classes in high schools and colleges and ridicule the idea that man was made in the image of God. They laugh at the story of the world deluge and the destruction of the antediluvians because of their damnable immorality; they scoff at the story of God feeding His people upon manna; at the story of Jonah and the whale; at the narrative of Elijah and Elisha and the miracles they performed. And there are some who are gullible enough to fall for that Satanic propaganda, never realizing that when the seed of doubt is sown, a crop of eternal death will be the harvest.

But some say that they believe in the New Testament. They believe in Jesus, but they just can't swallow the stories in the Old Testament. If you do not believe one, you do not believe the other. The same God who wrote the New Testament wrote the Old, and if He lied one place, you can't trust Him in any place. And you cannot believe in Christ as the Son of God, without accepting as facts the things that are related in the Old Testament. He proved His very resurrection by the flood, for He said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. For as they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man." Jesus affirmed that the flood actually took place. Did He tell the truth? If He did, then the flood occurred. If He didn't, then we cannot believe Him!

Once more He declares that as Jonah was three days and nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the Son of Man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth. To deny the story of Jonah is to deny the resurrection of the Son of God, for He used one as a sign of the other. You cannot doubt that God sent bread down from heaven to feed Israel in the wilderness and yet believe in Jesus. For Jesus tells us that this bread which was sent down from heaven was a type of Himself, as the bread of life.

What will these atheists gain in their destructive work? They will only prove that they are fools, for "the fool hath said in his heart there is no God." Suppose that a man had the ability through some secret which he had discovered to blot out the light

of the sun, until her face would no longer shine. What would be the result? Darkness, blackness, despair and certain death. Could he give us anything that beats the brightness of the sun? Could he give us a substitute that would equal it? The very question suggests how silly it would be to contemplate such a thing.

What does the crackpot Biblical critic have to offer in return for the Bible? Suppose he could banish it from earth, what would he give us in its place? Have atheism and skepticism and infidelity ever done anything constructive as has Christianity? Have they ever dried a widow's tears? Have they ever fed an orphan? Have they ever brought solace and comfort to a grieving heart? Suppose that an atheist came into a home where a wife was weeping over her departed loved one—would he be able to cheer her by saying, "Dry away your tears, my good woman, for you have the comfort of knowing that your husband is no better off than a brute; like old Rover, he just turned around and died all over?" Christianity comes and says to those who sorrow, that there is a hope beyond this vale of tears, there is recompense for suffering, balm for wounded hearts, and joy at the right hand of God in a land of peace and everlasting bliss, where partings and weeping come no more!

It is amazing that there are men who stand in the pulpits of this land today and who deny the virgin birth, the miracles, the resurrection and the ascension of the Son of God. No wonder religion in many cases has become nothing but a cold ritual, a mere formality, and a habit! No wonder it ceases to have anything for those who seek immortality and heavenly honor. Of all the contemptible, unhallowed, ungodly and despicable individuals, I count him the lowest who will hide behind his clerical garb, and pose as a spiritual shepherd to a flock, and yet deceive, mislead and delude them into believing that the gospel is a lie and a fabric of misrepresentation.

Under the guise of modern religion every false theory is taught today and those who hunger and thirst after righteousness are turned away with empty souls, just because some worldly-minded, mercenary, money-loving preacher is afraid to come out and preach the gospel for fear that he will be called "old-fashioned!" The desire to be modern, up-to-date and fashionable has knocked

Christ completely out of many so-called churches, and ridiculed the gospel until today it is almost unknown. The devil has his smoke-screens with which to veil the sun of truth, and some of his best generators do their spouting in the pulpits of this country.

Worldliness and hypocrisy have acted as an eclipse to the gospel in a lot of instances. Regardless of how straight the truth is uttered, if the lives of the membership will not measure up to it, then it is evident that the brightness of truth will be lost. What good does it do to preach against ungodliness and worldly lust if all of the members are living a life of such condemnable hypocrisy that the world will laugh at the gospel? What good will it do to preach against the wrongs of the theater, catering as it does to the lust of the flesh, if the membership sit in church, just squirming around waiting for you to cease so they won't miss the matinee? What good does it do to preach against gambling, if the flock will gather a group of bridge devotees around a card table on Sunday afternoon, and play for stakes and prizes? The sun of the gospel is eclipsed by the lives of a lot of those who should be letting their light shine.

The other day a man stopped at our door. He wanted to sell us a chance on a war bond. The raffle was sponsored by a certain church. No wonder the gospel and religion are sneered at today. Just imagine anyone having the audacity and spiritual effrontery to carry on a gambling den as a part of a church. With the churches selling beer and pretzels, sponsoring bingo parties and quilt raffles, gambling, drinking and dancing, it is no wonder that the gospel is in partial eclipse. Stop that stuff in the name of religion! If you want to do the devil's work get on his ground, and out of religion altogether.

## MEETING GOD'S APPOINTMENT

In the Saint Louis Art Museum there is a wonderful statue called, "The Angel of Death and the Sculptor." It depicts a young man, in the flower of his youth, working upon his masterpiece. He has the chisel against the marble, and his hammer raised to strike it. But the angel of death has just touched him on the shoulder and is beckoning him to follow her. There is a look of almost unbelief on the artist's face. He cannot feel that this is the end! He cannot believe that his great work must be left unfinished! Nevertheless, there is also a look of resignation. The task is ended.

A few days ago a man sat in his cabin atop a pine ridge in Georgia. At ease in his leather chair, he posed as another painted his portrait. The cheery warmth of a log fire took away the coolness of the day. All of a sudden the man who sat there put his hand to his head and exclaimed, "I have an intense pain in my head." He lapsed into unconsciousness, and soon left this mortal sphere. The angel of death had touched him on the shoulder and she led the President of the United States away just as he was preparing to complete his greatest work at the San Francisco Conference for World Peace. The nation was shocked, incredulous, unbelieving! But death calls to all of us, and when we are summoned there remains no time to finish the task.

I think it should be borne home to each of us that we are enroute to that appointment which God has made for us. There is no escaping it! But we can be prepared to meet it when it comes! You make appointments to meet your friends. Other things intervene and you cancel or postpone those appointments, but you'll do neither with the appointment of death, for it is not within your power to dispose of in such a fashion. God has made it! The appointment is divine and you will keep it. The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment." If you are prepared for the one of these, you will be prepared for the other. If you are not prepared for one of them, you are not prepared for either.

"Procrastination is the thief of time," it has been said. Many who listen in this day are resolved to make some readiness to meet

the Lord in death. I wonder if you will be like that individual whose watch was wrong. When someone called to his attention that he had better start for the train, he looked at his faulty time-piece and said, "I still have plenty of time." Just then the train whistled, and he exclaimed, "I was mistaken," and began to run, but he was too late. Are you fooling yourself into believing that the frail expectancy which you have of the future is correct? Do you say, "I still have plenty of time?" God help you not to be mistaken, for eternity is long, and condemnation sure to those who do not accept the Lord.

Doesn't it appear foolish to you, the way so many make arrangements, as if they were going to live here on earth always? They have elaborate plans, projects in the making, and conduct themselves in general as though they felt death would never reach them. But the Bible warns us along this line in the statement, "Come, come now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will enter into such a city, and continue there a year and buy and sell and get gain. Whereas, ye know not what shall be on the morrow! For what is your life? It is but a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." Men insure their houses, garages, barns and cars against fire. But they do not insure themselves against the flames of eternal hell! They insure their belongings against the windstorms which might sweep them away, but they forget to insure their lives against the winds of fate which may sweep with gale-like suddenness upon them and carry them to the next world.

The Bible constantly points out the brevity of life. Existence on earth is described as a weaver's shuttle, a vapor, a flower or grass! And we recall the words of the song,

*As the life of a flower, as a breath or a sigh,  
So the years that we live as a dream hasten by.  
True, today we are here, but tomorrow may see,  
Just a grave in the vale and a memory of me.*

I know there are those who deny the existence of a life after death. In their gross material views, man is no better than the dumb brute. When he dies, according to their theory, he is like the dog or the swine. But the mere denial of a thing does not

make the fact! I have heard men say even when they had read of the existence of the spirit in us, "I just can't see it." Well, that doesn't change it any! A blind man can be taken out in the yard, and you can point out the sun to him. The mere fact that he says he cannot see it does not prove there is no sun. It only demonstrates his own blindness!

The same thing holds true with those who deny the existence of hell! A lot of people would like to convince themselves that there is no hell. A sense of guilt and wrong impending in their hearts forces them to try and find some degree of comfort from falsehood. But just as surely as there is a law of justice which operates in this life to bring the guilty to punishment, just so there is an eternal law of justice which will some day reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Refusal to believe there is a hell will not keep you out of it; any more than refusing to believe in jail will keep you out when you have committed a crime against the state!

And it should be pointed out that good intentions will not suffice to save you. I have no doubt that all ten of the virgins in the parable of the "Ten Virgins" had good intentions! You could not tell the difference in looking at them. They all had lamps! They were all dressed up! They were all no doubt equally excited over the roles they were to play in the wedding. Had you questioned them as to their intentions you would have received ten identical answers. What, then, was the difference? The Bible says five were wise and five were foolish! But what is the basic difference between wisdom and foolishness as God looks at it? I reply that it lies simply in the fact that five were prepared for an emergency and the others were not. It makes no difference as to the goodness of your intentions, if you have paid no attention to the matter of preparedness! Someone has aptly remarked that "hell is paved with good intentions."

You have a responsibility! And where there is a responsibility there must always be a reckoning. If there were no giving account, there would be no responsibility. You must answer for the talent that God has given you! You must stand before him and justify the use that you have made of your time on this earth. Nothing is more precious than time. When men come to die, when the

sands in the hourglass of time are running low, they would sacrifice all that they possess in order to have just a few more hours on earth with their loved ones. What are you doing with this valuable substance?

Things change in value when you are face to face with death. I recall hearing about a certain rich woman who was on the Lusitania at the time it was torpedoed. All was in wild confusion! Her jewels became scattered on her stateroom floor. The pearls in her necklace lay strewn helter-skelter. Her diamonds glistened from the refuse and debris which lay in the corner. She ran up to the commanding officer on the bridge just before the final lifeboat was launched and asked him if she could have just one minute to return to her stateroom. He granted it, but told her she must hurry. And this woman ran back to the room where she had been staying. What do you think she picked up? The pearls? The diamonds? No, she grabbed four apples that were lying on a ship's table and ran with them to the lifeboat! So our sense of values will change when we know that we have but a few moments left.

You're interested in making money today! You are too busy with your social life to go to church! You have been elected to a political office and you haven't time from your duties to serve the Lord! You feel the need of recreation, so you waste the first day of the week lolling about at the club or playing with the rest of the fellows. That all seems important now. But what will it mean when you come to die? How eagerly you would trade all of your money, your wealth, your fame, your prestige, for the comfort and consolation of the Christian life.

Tomorrow may not come! Yesterday is past! All that you have is today! Make use of it for God! Now is the accepted time—today is the day of salvation! Hearken to the invitation of Christ who says, "Come unto Me." Go to the nearest faithful Church of Christ sponsoring these programs and obey the gospel. Do it today!

## THE AFTERMATH

I'm sure that a great many of you have recently been reading and hearing the somber warnings that have been issued from government law enforcing bureaus about the probability of an increase in crime. I think that we may expect, as a result of the let-down after the war, that crimes of violence will become even more prevalent than at present, and we all know that they are all too prevalent now. It seems to be one of the peculiar phases of national history that after a severe struggle there is an aftermath, which should be dreaded almost as much as the war. Laws are flouted, conventions forgotten, morals degraded, lives ruined, and hell made to rejoice over the new prospects which will fill her hungry flames after death.

It seems to me that our standard of morals isn't too high to start with. And before I get through today I'm going to say some things that will cause a lot of my listeners to want me taken off the air. The fur will fly and the letters pour in calling me a "crank, old fogey, and a moss-back!" That stuff doesn't bother me a particle just so long as I know I'm right. And I'm sure in what I'm going to utter today that I'm absolutely right.

It is not the men in a nation but the women who control the moral tone. I'm not saying it should be that way, but it is. I'm not favoring a double-standard, one for men and one for women. I think that a man who goes wrong is just as inexcusable as a woman. I never knew a woman to go wrong morally without a man's aid. That would be impossible. And God does not excuse one because he is a man, and condemn the other because she is not! But that still does not argue against the statement that the women will control the moral standards of a nation. And that being true, it also stands to reason that when those standards fall, it is the women who have been responsible in a greater or lesser degree. And I'm telling you frankly and flatfooted today that I think that is just the trouble in these United States with our moral standard. Listen, and I'll show you why, even if you get angry and refuse to believe it, or try to get me thrown off this station.

There is an almost complete lack of modesty in our land today. Take in the matter of dress for instance, or perhaps I should say

undress. Women have permitted themselves to be made suckers by Hollywood and Paris, and are now convinced that the less they wear the more beautiful they are! You can see women walking the streets with less on than a person ought to sleep in. Clothes don't even meet in the middle anymore. And in most instances there is not enough north or south of the equator, which is an imaginary line drawn around the center, you know, to wad an old-fashioned shotgun. And it's getting to the place where it is disgusting to decent people. I presume that there are those who think it is becoming to expose their knob-like knock-knees for public inspection, and some of those who, like myself, have plenty of avoirdupois, must feel that they are doing us a favor in showing where all the waste fat has been going, that should have been turned into the meat markets for two red points a pound. If it wasn't that there are those who have some sense of respect left, it would be laughable to see some of these middle-aged mothers try to look like sixteen-year-old school girls, and try to cover up the wrinkles and blemishes in their over-exposed epidermis.

A lot of so-called mothers ought to be so ashamed at the way they dress their daughters that they would not show their faces in public, or let the daughters show anything else until they get more on. I told you you wouldn't like it, didn't I? And you're going to ask what business it is of mine. I'm going to tell you. It's the business of a preacher to try to save the world, and to do so he has to oppose anything that will damn the world. And I'm telling you frankly that there will be an increase of crimes of lust and attack if you don't quit inviting it. That's plain but it's true, and if you have the common sense you ought to have you'll acknowledge it, and do something about it. If you want to chase around in your house naked when you have the doors locked for your protection, crack down on it, but don't get out on the street and pull that semi-nudity stuff, for it is simply inviting disaster, and not just from mosquitoes or flies, either!

A lot of fashions are a pure joke. Some of the things style creators talk us into wearing are downright funny. The misnamed little assortments of vegetables, birds and other articles, called hats are really laughable.

I appreciate some of the women who try to keep humor alive

in the world by putting on these little clownish tricks. Why, in the spring it is just like going to the circus. And I suppose they are harmless. But when you start taking off the rest of your clothes and getting out to perambulate around over the countryside, that's a different proposition. Why is it that there are those who think they must paint up like a cigar store Indian, decorate their toe nails with a ghastly shade, and black both eyes with heavy mascara in order to look like something beside what the Lord made and called human? I hasten to inform those who feel they are being admired for such exterior decoration, and for the exposure of their bodies to the gaze of the public that there are a lot of us who pity you. That's right! I feel sorry for some of the poor deluded, misguided, harum-scarum, crack-brained little sisters running around in what looks like papa's old nightshirt, and very little else. If you knew what some people really thought of you, you'd crawl so far under the bed they'd have to fish you out with a fishing pole to eat dinner!

Mothers, why can't you put a stop to this? One reason is that you are about as guilty as your daughters in a lot of cases. You have no sense of propriety or modesty, either! Straight talk—but true! I know what you'll say. You'll declare that it's your personal liberty and none of my concern. It isn't your personal liberty. I've got a little of that, too. And yours ends where mine starts. Why do those who want to live a decent, respectable life and rear their children to do the same have to be subjected to the disrespect of those who think it smart to serve the devil? Have we no personal liberty? Is liberty the license to do what you can to shock humanity, disgust the thinking people, and bring a moral nightmare of lust, attack and rape into this so-called Christian nation?

I presume it is useless to quote the Bible to those who may have no respect even for themselves, but at least the Bible will confirm the things for which I stand this day. Let's read the words of the apostle Paul, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broidered hair, or gold or pearls or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (1 Timothy 2:9, 10). Now it happens that this statement was made by the Holy Spirit of God, and thus it sets forth plainly God's feel-

ings about these matters. Heaven is interested in modesty, even if earth is not!

When the apostle Peter was writing to women whose husbands were not in Christ, he told them how to win those husbands. Now, a lot of women think the way to win a man is by fixing up externally regardless of what kind of character is possessed. That depends upon what kind of man you want to win, and why you want to win him. Have you noted that in Saint Louis County the number of divorce decrees has picked up tremendously? What's the trouble? I answer that lust has taken the place of love! The Bible tells you the way to influence your husband to obey the gospel if you want a Christian home. You cannot get him to do it by nagging, picking and pecking at him all of the time. Neither can you do it by fixing up like a circus clown and going with him to places of ungodly pleasure. If you do that you are no better than he.

The apostle says to conduct yourselves so that your husbands may be won by your Christian behavior, "while they behold your pure manner of living coupled with reverence or respect" (1 Peter 1:1, 2). He says that the adorning is not to be outward, but "let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." That's the kind of an ornament needed to really set off your beauty; a meek and quiet spirit. You can't buy it at the corner drug store, but in God's sight it is of great worth. I suggest a lot of us try using it, and see if beauty is not enhanced and the world made a more decent place in which to live.

## LITTLE THINGS

A few months ago on the German front, a company was awaiting the signal to go into battle. The commanding officer gave an order for all to inspect and clean their weapons. One man in the group, knowing that under the stress and tension prevalent, the "brass hats" would not be able to determine whether all of the guns were perfectly clean and free from dirt, ignored the order. Then came the time to go forward. The man who had disobeyed found himself isolated and heard two individuals coming toward him, talking in the German tongue. He lay quietly, realizing that he would be able to pick them off when they got in sight. But when the time came to fire, some minute foreign substance had jammed the mechanism of his firing piece, and today he lies sleeping in a foreign cemetery, a victim, not so much of German guns as of his own neglect. A little substance, unnoticed by him, proved his downfall.

I find among a great many of my friends today that same spirit of disregard. When Jesus commands us to do a thing, a lot of people will add to that command or ignore it completely. They then attempt to justify themselves by saying that what they have done is of minor importance; it is just a little thing. But I want you to know this day that the God of Heaven does not tolerate even minor deviations from His law. Long years ago, through Moses, he proclaimed at the border of Canaan, "Thou shalt not add unto the words which I have spoken and neither shalt thou diminish aught from them, but thou shalt observe to do all that I have commanded thee."

The New Testament was virtually concluded and sealed with a like command which shows that tampering with the law of God is a serious thing, and even those things which you feel to be insignificant infractions may bring about your certain condemnation. Listen, while I read from Revelation 22:18, 19, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophesy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Not only did the Heavenly Father warn us by precept against meddling with His will, but He went farther and gave us examples of some who did and pointed out the dire consequences to such individuals. I'm thinking just now of Uzzah and his sudden death. You will recall that God had told His people that the ark of the covenant must be borne upon the shoulders of the priests. During that time when Eli was alive and the judge of Israel, the ark was captured by the Philistines, and carried to their country. It brought such plagues upon their land that they were anxious to be rid of it, so they sent it back to the land of Israel. However, it remained away from the tabernacle for a number of years, until the time of David. As David made preparation for his son to build the great temple at Jerusalem, he decided to bring the sacred ark to that city. There was much rejoicing over the decision.

But David ignored the instruction of God, and placed the ark upon a cart that was drawn by oxen. He assigned two of the priests to accompany the ark in the joyous return parade. One of these men was Uzzah. As they were coming along the road, they approached a threshing floor. The oxen stumbled as one wheel of the cart ran over an impediment. The cart swayed to one side, and it appeared that the ark would topple from its place. Quickly, Uzzah reached out to stay the ark and hold it up. Just as quickly, he fell dead, a silent but sure monument that God means what he says. Now, you would say that he was trying to do a good work, and that after all, this was such a little thing that surely God shouldn't have punished him so severely.

But there were two mistakes made. One was by David. He realized his error, for he later acknowledged, "The Lord hath done this unto me, for that we sought Him not after the due order." That simply means we "did not worship in the way He had appointed." But the second mistake was by Uzzah. The mere fact that the worship of the Lord was not carried on in an acceptable manner did not give him permission to violate personally the other commands of the Lord. And herein we learn a lesson of serious importance today.

Many there are who attend where they admit that the worship is not conducted "after the due order." They will tell you that

they know the church is not following the New Testament, and has no authority from heaven for the way it is conducting its services and work. Nevertheless, they will continue to go, pay their money to support such a thing, give their time and the inspiration of their presence. They think they will be justified for their personal fellowship and endorsement of what is wrong, just because the thing as a whole is unscriptural. It is ridiculous to contemplate.

But often when you point out to such people the mistakes they are tolerating, they come back with the reply, "O, those are such little things. I don't believe God would condemn people for that!" God has told us that He wants us to sing in His worship, but man isn't satisfied with using the instrument that God has placed in the human throat, he has to spend thousands of dollars for an organ, or invest in a huge orchestra, in his attempt to improve upon God's idea of service. He makes a different kind of music than God commanded, but point out that such is not seeking the Lord after the due order, and man will reply, "It's such a little thing!"

God has taught us in Ephesians 4:4 that, "There is one body!" He tells us in Colossians 1:18 that "body is the church." He further emphatically declares that it was God's eternal purpose that by the church should be made known the manifold wisdom of God. But humanity is not satisfied with the simplicity that has been ordained. Man must form organizations and societies to propagate the gospel. He cannot go forth and preach to the world without a missionary society. Thus he establishes another body than the church, to do the work which the church has been told to do. "O," but you say, "that is such a little thing!" It was a little thing in your sight for David to make a cart to haul the ark when God had already told them the way by which He wanted it carried. But Uzzah died on account of it. Certainly if God has provided a means by which the gospel is to be carried to the world, He will not hold you guiltless if you build a different organization through which to do it.

But you tell me that these things are doing a good work. That's what Uzzah thought also. But he learned to his sorrow that it is

not only important to do the right thing, but you must also do it the right way!

There are congregations calling themselves Churches of Christ in this area which have built "new ox carts." They will condemn those who establish a missionary society to preach the gospel, but they will aid, assist and abet in the formation of an educational society to teach the gospel. I want to know if it isn't as much the work of the church to teach the gospel as it is to preach it. And if it is wrong to set up a missionary society with its separate officers to preach the Word, why isn't it wrong to set up a Bible College with its separate officers to teach the Word? Can you answer that? O, you say, the latter is a private institution. All right, suppose we establish a private missionary society. Would that alter the case? Any separate body from the church set up to do any part of the work God has authorized for the church to do is wrong. It usurps the divine prerogatives of the one body.

And you who condemn sectarianism for the organizations, then turn right around and organize institutions of your own, are just as sectarian as you can be. You cannot defend those things by the Bible. Thus you have to resort to misrepresentation, falsehood and calumny to becloud the issue and throw up "smoke screens" to hide the basic principles of the thing. Anything that you have to lie about your brethren to defend is not right, and you know it isn't! Why not get rid of your human "ox carts" and put the church to work as you should? Why not "can" a few of these salaried pastors who are feeding the flock and doing what the elders ought to do, and get back to God's Book? I'm notifying all and sundry from this station today that I'm ready anytime I am in Saint Louis to meet anyone or everyone in discussion of the things for which we stand. And I thank God that when I enter into that discussion, I will have to go defending just one institution, the one that's mentioned in the New Testament, the Church of Jesus Christ. I challenge those of you who think it is right to uphold, defend and endorse these other unscriptural bodies to defend them openly. Will you do it? These things are not little in God's sight!