

OUR FUTURE HOPE

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Our hope as a nation is in getting back to God. No man, no organization, no political party, no man-made plan can save the situation. We are drifting on a perilous tide which is carrying us toward the breakers. America has reached the zenith of her glory, and we are on the decline. Though highly educated, and with a mighty inventive mind, also with keen insight into business affairs, yet we are sadly and deplorably failing somewhere. The cogs seem to be slipping and we are losing ground. What is to be done? It is an evident fact that our education isn't saving us. The wonderful intellect to be found almost everywhere isn't saving us. We are vastly rich as a nation, but that isn't saving us. In the midst of our bounty, and hard by the eves of our vast millions of wealth, poverty stalks like a ghost. The cry of want and need is heard everywhere. Perilous times are here. We need not shut our eyes to this fact. It does no good absolutely, to deny it. Facts are stubborn things. We had just as well face the issue frankly, acknowledge our shortcomings, failures, mistakes, sins, crime and wickedness as a nation and call upon God for mercy. To deny facts, to cover sin, to be hypocritical will never save us. It will get us nowhere. The blessed old Book declares, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsake them shall have mercy."

In laying our plans for future years, if we leave God out, and fail to accept his plan for our lives, we shall miserably fail. No individual can leave God out of his life and succeed. It is utterly impossible. He may achieve what the world calls success; may fill some high position; may make money, and may be applauded by the world, but in he has the frown of God upon him, lives under condemnation, fails to do God's will and please him, and thus passes into the presence of God guilty and unprepared, he is an everlasting failure. His earthly possessions, achievements, education and culture amount to nothing toward his eternal redemption, peace and happiness. What is true with an individual is largely so with a nation. America has forgotten God. There is a tremendous and deplorable drift. Every observing eye can detect it. We have a "form of godliness," but deny the power thereof. Paul tells us that such will be in the last days. We are also told by this mighty apostle and prophet of God that the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine, but will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and will turn their ears from the truth to fables. Surely that time is here. Behold what is being taught, preached, written and believed today! Perhaps one of the greatest of all false doctrines that has struck the country is Russellism. It undermines the faith of men in the Church, in the Sunday School, in revivals of religion and vital salvation for this life and world. It does not teach men to repent, but promises them a second chance, consequently permits them to live just any way here, revel and carouse, do as they please, with the erroneous idea and promise that they will have the privilege of salvation beyond this life and world. This is bosh. All the devil wants is to deceive and fool mankind here, letting him die in this condition; for he knows he has them safely within his grasp forever. Even if there should be another chance for salvation after thi life, isn't it foolish to serve the devil here, waste one's precious life

and talent, curse the world, then call upon God to save him when he has let all his golden opportunities slip by for blessing the world? Such false doctrine, however, licenses men to sin.

When those who teach and preach Russellism get down to business in deep repentance before God, straighten up, clean up, clean out, get saved from all their sins and wickedness, live right, "pray without ceasing," practice the means of grace, give of their earthly substance to the poor and needy, and for the spread of the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world, teaching that godliness, righteousness and holiness is for this life and world, and that here is the place to prepare to meet God, then many of us will believe in them and what they teach, otherwise we won't. A tree is known by its fruit. Jesus declared it. I've never seen a Russellite yet practice living prayerful lives, warning people against sin and leading them to Jesus, praying and working to bring about revivals, visiting the sick and afflicted, giving liberally of their means to needy people, to feed, clothe and educate orphans and to care for the widow. You never hear them praising God, although we are told much praise him, and especially in the Psalms. You never see them with bright and shining faces, testifying to the fact that they are ready for the return of Jesus. They fight revivals of religion, and every preacher of the Gospel throughout the land. Now that's so. "By their fruits we shall know them." What kind of fruit do they bear? Certainly not that kind to convince godly, righteous, spiritual people that they have been with Jesus. Wherever they got a strong hold upon the people they quit the church, quit prayer meeting, become spiritually dead, and then go to fighting the very principles of redemption. Certainly our future hope is not in Russellism nor what they teach. It is a false doctrine, although multitudes of people are accepting it, grasping it, falling for it. I'm afraid of what the multitudes go after. Consequently that which is sound and genuine is being set aside, rejected, scoffed and scorned at.

That which is genuine is hated and despised by the multitudes. Why? Because it crosses their crooked lives. It requires them to turn about, repent with a godly sorrow, be "born again," quit the sinning business. "abstain from all appearance of evil," live humbly, prayerfully, cleanly, purely, conscientiously. Instead of being worldly, proud, haughty, covetous, adultrous, dishonest and ungodly they must be Christlike. It requires of them to give up the evil sports of the world, the adultrous dance, the crime-breeding movies, the theatre, the pleasures of the world, then take up one's cross and follow the meek and lowly Nazarene. This is what the world refuses to do. Multitudes of church members flatly and positively refuse to do it. They want their social drink, their card parties, their modernized gambling dens, their nicotine, their social prestige, their big times and fleshy gratifications. Such will never save America. It will continue to curse us, blight us, defeat us. Our future hope is in getting away from such, and turning unto God with all our soul. We got to mean business with God if he comes to our rescue.

I have just been reading the book of Jeremiah, and find that he warned and warned the people as God's prophet, but they hated him. He was cast into prison, even a dungeon of mire and filth. They sought to evade

the oncoming judgments of God by imprisoning his prophet, and seeking to destroy him. Had it not been for the power and presence of God with him no doubt he would have died at their hands. He hated him and his messages of warning, but God's awful wrath and judgments came upon them the same. The devil has always hated the truth and those who declare it. Jeremiah was a mighty man of truth and righteousness, and with weeping warned and warned the people, although they refused to heed his warning. The same is true today. Some of you people do not like Isenhour for the simple reason he tells you the truth. That is the secret of it. However, many of you love the truth, hunger and thirst for it, stand for it, and are therefore building your lives upon it. Praise the Lord.

It takes clean living to please God, and that is what our country and the world refuses to do. Indeed holiness is right, regardless of all who hate it, fight it, refuse and reject it, against it, turn a deaf ear to it, argue against it, turn a deaf ear to it, argue against and misunderstand it. God indeed says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12: 14). If our country would come to this requirement today, without any reservations, we would see a marvelous and supernatural change. The situation would be saved. It is an evident fact that we have drifted away from the old landmarks of godliness, righteousness, honesty, principal, brotherly love, holiness, Christlikeness and deep piety as a nation, therefore it is for us to get back or suffer the consequence. To turn liquor loose now, on top us. Nay, but will hasten our destruction. It is utterly impossible to cure the evil with evil, to remedy wrong by enacting more wrong. You can't drown evil by letting a flood of it break in upon us. Never!

There is but one thing America can do to save herself from defeat and destruction, and that is to get back to God. It means deep repentance at the old "mourner's bench" in the old-fashioned way. It means crying mightily unto God from the very depth of our heart and soul, confessing all our sins, our wickedness, our vanity, our dishonesty one toward another, our haughtiness, our greed for money and riches, our false ideas, erroneous beliefs and opinions, give up our false theories and ungodly science, humble ourselves, forsake the devil and turn wholeheartedly unto God like Nineveh of old, meaning business with God. Amen, and Amen. —Christian Witness

FLESH AND FAITH

Man can do marvelous things. It sometimes seems as though there were no limit to what he can do—but there is. Some one has said the most inventions are extensions of the flesh. The telescope is vision extended. The microscope is a keener eye. The telephone is voice and ear multiplied. A gun is an arm miles long. Dynamite is a gigantic fist. The typewriter is a set of hurrying fingers multiplied. An automobile is a man plus swift and untiring legs. An airplane is but a man with wings added. The radio is voice and audience amazingly increased.

However, faith is not an extension of the flesh. Faith is not sight multiplied even by infinitude. Faith is a divinely imparted faculty of the soul. "And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God."—Heart and Life Magazine.