

CHARACTER—THE WEATHERVANE OF LIFE

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No normal individual courts defeat or failure. In fact, the desire for success is the heart throb of every human being, even though he may refuse to pay the price necessary to success. Further, it is my candid conviction that the right to success is inherently within the grasp of each and all. It is impossible to conceive that the infinite God, our Creator, would plant within the heart of man such a basic desire and in turn make impossible its satisfaction or attainment. Yes, you have within your grasp the right to success.

However, the fact of failures on every hand, the fact of defeats in every type of human endeavor, and the fact of human misfits in every walk of life make evident the undeniable truth that the desire to succeed together with the inherent right to success does not guarantee the accomplishment or attainment of the same. Thus may we not conclude that fundamental to all successful attainments one must find the basic factor or element which will make possible the realization of one's desire and the inheritance of one's privilege.

A careful analysis of a truly successful industry or commercial house will soon discover certain basic principles of organization, together with certain standards of business integrity and honesty. Added to this will be found definite policies of promptness, courtesy, cooperation, etc., all of which gives to that concern what may be properly called its character. In other words the weathervane of commercial or industrial success is its basic character.

May I suggest that an investigation of business failures will further verify the truth that character again is indeed the weathervane which pointed to defeat. For the character of a business which would permit either shoddy organization or questionable dealings as to honesty, or discourtesy, or factors of strife or division, could point in no other direction than to ultimate failure, even though temporary prosperity might be evidenced.

The same truth would further be evidenced had we the time to consider the successes and failures of the various social orders. Character, not custom, is the basis upon which society will either stand or fall.

It is very clear that the character of a business organization or of society is but the creation of the individuals who compose their membership. Also it is evident that their business and social attitude is but the outcropping of their individual characters. Consequently the success of business and society simplifies itself to and is dependent on your character and mine.

If this be true, and it is, the weathervane of one's personal success is one's character. Of more import than social standing or bank balance, or securities presented as collateral toward success is character built on a proper foundation and constructed by basic principles that will stand the acid test of life here and life hereafter. Thus character building becomes the greatest of all tasks.

In character building, as in any other building, the basic import of a foundation must be given careful consideration. The excavation down through loam, gravel, shifting sands and clay, and the location of rock bottom is of first consideration in a material building. Of how much greater importance, the turning from sin and its association to the foundation of all true charac-

ter, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ." We read elsewhere in the good Book where it says, "He that climbeth up same other way the same is a thief and a robber." Upon and in Jesus Christ alone can true character be attained. At first thought one might consider such a statement as too dogmatic. However, a careful analysis of the highest standards and ideals of man will clearly show that they have their origin in the life and character of the Man of Galilee.

The laying of a proper foundation can be had only in a settlement of the sin problem, both of action and of principle. This can be accomplished through Jesus Christ alone. Briefly, may we state that the epochal Christian experiences in which one finds forgiveness for the past—the acts of sin and wrong-doing—and the cleansing of the heart from the principle of, or bent to sin, are basic to true Christian character. And Christian character alone will stand the acid test of life. Upon this rock alone can we safely build character, the church, society, or commerce.

Upon this sure foundation we are further admonished to build with material of value, such as gold, silver and precious stones, in contrast with wood, hay and stubble. Thus we must daily build into character that which will prove of lasting worth.

"WHEN," NOT "IF"

When we belong to God we can count upon victory; but we do not have to count upon sinning. There is a wealth of meaning in the use of two little words in the Bible relating to victory and defeat. In Moses' great valedictory to Israel he said, concerning Israel's warfare against any enemy-city in the land: And *when* the Lord thy God hath delivered it into thine hand" (Deut. 20:13). He did not say, "*If* the Lord delivers it into thine hand," but "*When* the Lord they God delivers it."

"If" means uncertainty; "when" means certainty. Victory was pledged to Israel by God. And Israel's experiences in the land were types or parables of the spiritual experiences of Christian people today.

John writes, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." He did not say, "*When* any man sin," but "*If*." *When* would mean that sinning was necessary; "if" means that sinning is not necessary, but possible. If we sin, Jesus Christ restores us to fellowship as we confess and forsake our sin. If we have fully yielded to our Saviour as Lord, and if we are trusting Him, then as we face some severe test or temptation just ahead, we do not need to say, "If the Lord gives me victory," but "*When* the Lord has given me victory."—S. S. Times.

An editor is worth but little to the temperance cause as long as he keeps thinking a brickbat might be shied at him through the plate glass window. Let him do his editorial work in some inside room with a sky-light.—Selected.

"The mere recognition of the Bible and the mere acknowledgement of God is not enough, and especially when a ritual is connected with heathen ceremonies and paganistic initiations, does the profession of a belief in God become presumptuous and blasphemous."—Rev. Geo. C. Needham.

"Laughing at a fact does not change the fact. The mob jeered at Jesus on the cross, but the fact of the cross is man's eternal hope."—Sel.

Interesting Items

THE NEW ATHEISM  
Canadian Christian Crusade News of the  
Atheist Movement, Germany  
(Extract from letter received)

"Very serious days are ahead for the Lord's people in Germany I am afraid. There is a movement to introduce the so-called German Christian which means the repudiation of the Bible (at least the Old Testament), because of its Jewish origin.

"I stood in a protest meeting in Nuremberg of 3,000 people, members of the Evangelical Church, but the speakers could say very little and the whole proceedings were guarded by troops and apparently under the authority of the Hitler regime, which is really responsible for the crises. The day after we left, 300 Jews were arrested . . ."

ENGLAND

(Extract from letter received)

"There is a growing and urgent need for public testimony, but alas, nothing practically is being done over here. I long to see your work developing and would like to see it extended over here too.

"The questions asked by the men are a clear index of the growth of an educated skepticism. The foolish quibbles of a few years ago are now replaced by really serious and thoughtful questions . . ."

The Canadian Christian Crusade has issued a Series of Bible Difficulties Answered that has had a circulation of many thousands and is in demand continually by ministers, leaders of Bible Classes, students and others. This Series is the result of many hours of consecrated service rendered by leading scientists, among them being Dr. W. Bell Dawson, and others.

London Times, England:

"The faith of thousands is being wrecked and multitudes hurried into the ranks of ATHEISM . . ."

Advent Witness, England:

"Hundreds of well-educated and well-to-do men and women in all parts of London are constantly practising the worship of the Devil . . ."

MAUD HOWE,

Gen. Secretary, C. C. C.

WORLD WIDE ATHEISM

Peaceful propagation of ATHEISM has been going on for many years—today the mighty forces of atheism pour out their devastating doctrines, send thousands of educated propagandists into English speaking Colleges, with results that are beginning to be recognized by lovers of home, faith and country.

—25,000,000 children are taught to write—"There is no God"—in Russia.

—a boy of six years told us, with blasphemy, a few days ago—in Canada—that his mother hated God, and he did too.

Four extracts from letters to the Canadian Christian Crusade

(From a barrister-at-law) "I do not believe our real God is the one depicted in Bible custom."

(From a Mother): "My faith went through a Professor at University—may my two daughters be kept from atheism."

(From a Minister): "Can you advise us what to do. One dear to us has joined a local Godless organization."

(From one on authority) "The steady persistent saving of a situation such as you are doing, will eventually bear fruit."—The Evangelical Christian.