

THE FIFTH COLUMN

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There is a great deal said about the "Fifth Column" these days, as the struggle goes on for liberty, of which we are in danger of being robbed, as many already have been, by the hands of cruel, heathen, pagan, and atheistic nations. One is made to wonder at their success, and how they have accomplished it. It was said there is no danger, that the defence was good. We need not relate what has happened. The success of the enemy is attributed to what is called the "Fifth Column." These are made up of men and women, who pretend to be loyal but in reality are working for the interest of the enemy. It is only when nation after nation has gone down, and great armies suffered defeat, that there is an awakening to the fact of a "Fifth Column."

In the greatest war of the ages which can be truly called the "World War," as it started in the Garden of Eden and is still going on over the entire globe, the "Fifth Column" is busy at work. This is a war against SIN. Sometimes there have been great victories, and the enemy was thrown back, and at other times there were defeats, and it looked as if the enemy would get the victory. What is the cause? The "Fifth Column" in the church. The conflict is against SIN. When the Church took up its arms against sin there was victory, and the enemy was defeated. What has happened? The devil has sent a "Fifth Column" into the church under the profession of religion, and garb of righteousness. This happened in the time of Constantine and since. They are ardent defenders of sin. Through these, the devil sends out his propaganda, from the press, and from behind the sacred desk, informing us that sin is not so bad; but is necessary to the Christian life, until, today, we have reason to believe that nine tenths, if not more, of so called Christians and PREACHERS are defending SIN, rather than crying against it. In Elijah's time there were 850 false prophets of Baal to one prophet of God.

There were only two classes of people. The followers of God; first called "Christians" at Antioch, and who have been known by different names, "Sons of God," "Saints," "Children of God," etc. The followers of the devil; known as sinners, the wicked, the children of the devil, etc. The distinction between the two is SIN, 1 John ch. 3. The Word of God makes it very plain where we belong. "Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin" 1 John 3:9, "He that committeth sin is of the devil" John 3:8. There can be no allegiance between God and the devil; between sin and holiness. Holiness belongs to God, and comes from Him. Sin comes from the devil and belongs to him. The time has come when the question should be asked, "Where art thou?" and "Who is on the Lord's side?" If we indulge in sin, and defend it we are on the side of the devil, and against God, regardless of what we profess, or what uniform we wear." If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His." Rom. 8: 14. God has pronounced the verdict against sin, and no man can alter it." The soul that sinneth it shall die." Ezk. 18:20. The devil is very busy these days sending out propaganda through the "Fifth Column," which is weakening the church. Gal. 1:8, 9. Let us unitedly watch and pray that we may help win the victory for Jesus Christ over sin and the devil.

MORE WASTE

"Letters to the Press bear witness to widespread concern at the continuance of sporting fixtures with which the most extensive gambling practices are associated. As an example, on one day recently, four important horse-racing events were held, particulars being announced by the B. B. C. On the same day there were also six greyhound race meetings in a London area alone—a slack day in a week of over fifty meetings. Christian people do not need to be reminded that such 'sports' entail the gravest waste of labor, foodstuffs, fodder, newsprint, and arable land. In addition to these forms of menace, football pools continue to flourish. Even more serious is the fact that at a moment when thrift and wise expenditure are vital to pull our country through to victory, the morale of the nation is weakened by direct incitements to selfish acquisition, which is the direct motive for gambling. It is the bounden duty of the Christian churches to awaken the conscience of the community to the manner in which the national efficiency is being impaired by the promoters of gambling."

This awful fever has vitiated the atmosphere of worship and office—it has entered homes and plunged them into debt from which many will never recover in a lifetime. It has even entered the school life of our nation, so that children are affected by it.

This is an age of Dictators and one could almost wish that God would raise up a **Religious Dictator** of the Cromwellian type, who would sweep away many of the so-called pleasures which are ruining our people, and hold them to it, no matter how they howl, until they learn to appreciate Spiritual values, and it begins to dawn upon them that the things they thought they could never live without, have no further attraction for them.

This nation must repent or go under. Whatever the glories of the past, may we not try to make ourselves believe that somehow we are God's favourites, and that defeat is impossible. It is as true today as when our beloved Lord uttered the words "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

To write in this strain lays one open to the charge of being a "JEREMIAH." If such thoughts should cross the mind of anyone of Israel's truest patriots, and that his prophecies came true No man ever loved or served his nation better, but he stands high among those whom every international crisis brings into uncomfortable prominence as "traitors to their country." Intensely patriotic, he yet felt that the whole policy of his nation and its rulers, was contrary to true Godliness and likely to end in disaster and ruin. He insisted that the moral issue was greater than the national, and that victory is worse than defeat if it be gained at the expense of principle and a people's soul. He predicted defeat, and so would I, unless we repent and seek first the kingdom of God.

"Arise, O Lord: let not man prevail; let the heathen be judged in Thy sight. Put them in fear, O Lord; that the nations may know themselves to be but men.

"Righteousness exalts the nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rule, the people mourn."

Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty

man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth ME, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

"The meek shall inherit the Earth." Therefore let us continue to pray God to keep all bitterness out of our spirits; let us continue our works of mercy to all peoples.

This is a day when we are seeing treachery at work as never before perhaps in the history of the world, but may we keep our souls pure from such methods. It is better a thousand times to be deceived than to deceive.

Let us continue our supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men; for our beloved King, and all in power and authority over us. Their task is not an easy one! It is so much easier to criticise and deride than to pray. Let us be loyal and true to God and men, and then, if we must needs suffer for righteousness sake we shall be sustained by the Spirit of Him, Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again: when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him Who judgeth righteously. —Emmanuel.

Come let us to the Lord our God
With contrite hearts return:
Our God is gracious, nor will leave
The desolate to mourn.

His voice commands the tempest forth,
And stills the stormy wave;
And though His arm be strong to smite
'Tis also strong to save.

Long hath the night of sorrow reigned,
The dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
With gladness in His sight.

Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
Shall know Him and rejoice;
His coming like the morn shall be,
Like morning songs His voice.

As dew upon the tender herb,
Diffusing fragrance round;
As showers that usher in the spring,
And cheer the thirsty ground.

So shall His presence bless our souls
And shed a joyful light;
That hallowed morn shall chase away
The sorrows of the night. —J. D. D.

"PUT ON," "PUT OFF"

By Rev. E. E. Shelhamer

Here we are told the secret of getting saved and keeping saved. First, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus;" that is, put on His purity, His sincerity, His humility. Put these on as you would a garment and wear them close to you day and night. You have a righteous claim to them, they are yours; seize them!

At the same time. "Put ye off" the "old man," the old mind, the old habits, the old besetting sins. Put them off forever; yea, "Make no provision for the flesh," ever to think or look in the wrong direction. How easy to reserve some little provision; to cherish a secret plan to carry out the desires of the flesh. And when you do, God steps aside, but the result is a cheap joy, a fleeting pleasure, and condemnation of soul. Friend, it does not pay!