

NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER (Heb. 10:25)

D. W. Reynolds

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." There never was a time when it was more important to give diligent heed to this Scripture than at the present time. The words, "AND SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING," have great significance. The nearer we come to the antichrist reign the more important it is for the saints to meet together and exhort each other and stir each other to love and to good works.

The general trend of this time is to lukewarmness, not willing to be cold, yet not red-hot. God wants us to be red-hot. The trend of the times, is to give attention to the cares of this life. Jesus said, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34). The trend even in church ranks is to give attention to other things, and let the things of God slip. The tendency in many places is to not go to church just so regular as in days gone by. The plea is often given that because of gas rationing they cannot go so much. Yet they go to other things.

The people of God need to know that they must let other things slip, and give special attention to assembling themselves together. They must assemble themselves together where the most stirring messages and exhortations will be given. We need to keep stirred to the very depth of our souls. Not only must we be stirred, but we must stir others. The stir will die in our souls if we do not pass it on. Many people do not put forth the effort to go where they will be stirred because it is a little farther to go than to some place near at hand, where they are not so radical against sin and worldliness and the antichrist program; therefore they give in to an easier way and fail to keep red-hot. This is a dangerous thing to do in this cooling-off age. Let every saint be careful to make some way to get the most radically hot place of worship, and then do everything they can to stir the others to keep free from sin and worldliness of every kind.

It is very important for the saints to meet together in conventions and camp-meetings real often. The more saints get together to encourage and exhort each other in these conventions and camp-meetings, the better able they will be to stem the tide of the downward trend when they return home. Also they will encourage and boost the church where they go to attend the convention or camp. We must do our best to help each other. As you help others you will help yourself. The more you stir others the more you will be stirred.

I have noticed for some time that the preacher who does not put forth the effort and faith that is necessary in order to get to the conventions and camps, does not make it as well with his church as the preacher who puts forth the effort necessary to go where he will be helped and where he will help some one else. It is the same way with the

layman, who does not put forth the effort to go where he can get help, and where he can help others. He will soon fail of the glory in his own soul.

The church that does not make the sacrifice to call a convention and care for the people who come, and join in the battle against sin, will also suffer a great loss.

Let us all unite our efforts to the greatest possible extent to help each other by assembling together and boosting each other all we can. Let us do everything possible to help each other to win souls. The uniting in prayer and faith will be of untold value.—Immanuel Missionary.

DEMOCRACY: WHICH KIND?

By Rev. B. H. Pearson

The day I read that ten Catholic archbishops and bishops "fear that compromises on the ideals of the Atlantic Charter are in prospect" (see Time, November 22, 1943), the following report came directly to me, and which, when a legal hearing comes, will be amply witnessed to:

One of our workers was visiting interested persons in a certain city in Colombia. A representative and priest of another religion met him and demanded that he leave town. As a Colombian citizen he stated his right to be there. The other man said, "I run the town, not the mayor and the authorities." He shoved our worker and told him "get out."

A crowd gathered. Knives flashed. A stone was thrown which struck the worker in the back. Two policemen came just in time to save the man and disarm the mob.

At the City Hall, he it said to the credit of the mayor, he guaranteed our man full protection in his rights under the constitution. There present, however, was this powerful representative of another religion who had followed. He denounced the mayor for giving our worker protection and saving his life. Two other officials of the city said that the mayor should be killed for giving protection to a "Protestant."

Our man continued his visits. He spoke to everyone he met to observe the reaction. Fully seventy per cent of the people greeted him cordially. The police kept the town quiet.

By so narrow a margin did a faithful servant of Christ escape death. Let it be said, however, that there are many authorities ready to grant the protection which the constitution guaranteed, and probably seventy per cent of the people are friendly and humane in their attitude. Nevertheless, the battle lines are drawn.

And then I read again about those dignitaries of the Catholic Church in the North who feared "that compromises on the ideals of the Atlantic Charter are in prospect." Let's see, one of those four freedoms is "freedom of religion," is it not?

"Precisely," say our friends, the prelates of the Roman Church, "we believe in religious freedom. You are free to hold personally any religion you choose so long as you practice none other than The Apostolic Roman Catholic religion."

On this same day also we heard of the discharge of a splendid Christian school teacher from public service in public schools simply because she was a "Protestant." When this was presented to the Department of Education, the answer was that "in the matter of religion one has the right to think as he chooses, but not to bring to others the religion that he chooses."

Just another straw in the air, all heard on the same day: In a certain church in a certain town, a matter which various witnesses can corroborate, a minister of a well-known religion de-

nounced democracy in Colombia, in the United States, in Great Britain, and said that what was needed here in Colombia was a General Franco to establish a dictatorship of right and of the rule of the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church.

"Freedom of religion"—the Atlantic Charter—that is what our friends the bishops and archbishops are fighting for in the United States. Then what is the Roman Church fighting for down here?

One horn or the other of the dilemma must be chosen. Either Catholicism is a different thing in different lands and therefore not the Church Universal, or else Catholicism wears a careful disguise in democratic lands when and where it is still in a minority.

But to say the least it is rather confusing to find these waters "bitter" and "sweet" issuing from the same fountain of religious infallibility, all on the same day.—Free Methodist.

STRONG MEN

Rev. Walter E. Isenhour

What our country needs today more than anything else is strong men. And what we mean by strong men is men of God, men of noble character, men of great principle, men of good sound judgment, men of prayer and faith, men of love instead of men who harbor hatred in their hearts. We need men who are honest, upright, clean, manly, gentlemanly. We need men who practice the Golden Rule; men who do not impose upon their fellow men; men who live and let live; men who love humanity more than they love leadership, lordship, money and power.

We need strong men at the head of our great government to lead us right; to lead us upward, not downward; to lead us out of sin and wickedness and not into it. We need men in our pulpits who are "strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." Men who love the lives and souls of their fellows more than they love great pulpits, popularity, money and luxury. Men who preach the truth, live the truth, teach the truth. Men who hate war and love peace. Men who preach peace instead of war. We need godly, righteous, holy men as preachers of the gospel, and they are strong men.

We need strong men as teachers of our public schools. Men who place morals and godliness, noble manhood and womanhood, righteousness and holiness above mere learning and knowledge. Men who live clean, manly, upright and noble lives before their pupils. Men who would not stoop to the low and mean. Men who are free from bad and ruinous habits. Men who set good examples before the pupils. Men who love humanity more than they love position and money. God give us such men to teach our schools! This includes women, too.

We need strong men in the business circles of life. Men who do not stoop to dirty deals. Men who will tell the truth, and who would not lie even though it might mean a few dishonest dollars in their pockets. We need business men who are straightforward and honest with all men; who give a hundred cents to the dollar and sixteen ounces to the pound. We need men in all kinds of business who walk uprightly, live uprightly, godly and righteously out of whose lives all cheat and smut is gone. Amen. Again, God give us men. O we need men! Yes, men, MEN.—The Wesleyan Methodist.