

THE CHURCH AND THE PROPOSED NEW WORLD ORDER

(C. W. Butler)

In the beginning of the period of this second world war, the question was often asked, "Has Christianity failed?" In considering such a question, we need a clear view of the real mission of Christianity in the world.

There are two viewpoints by which men approach their evaluation of the Christian movement. One of these viewpoints is that it is the mission of Christianity and of the Christian church to save the world and to build a new world order. If such is the true mission of the church, then I think we would all recognize that we have sadly failed up to this hour.

The other viewpoint from which to evaluate Christianity is that, while God's redemptive plan has made provision for the saving of all men from all sin, the realization of that plan is, however, personal in its application. To those who receive the Gospel and avail themselves of God's remedy for sin, Christianity has never failed. By the route of this "narrow way" millions have reached the "blest abode" and millions now are on the road.

No, Christianity has not nor will it ever fail. Its proposition is capable of personal demonstration to everyone who will meet the conditions upon which its benefits are realized. It is not the mission of Christianity to save the world order as such or to build a new world order on the ruins of the past. It is only as the individual appropriates God's power in the Gospel unto personal salvation that Christianity becomes effective. When it does become effective, each one who enters this new realm becomes a member of a new two-world order. It is not the teaching of Scripture that all in the world will receive the provision of grace or that they will all be saved at any time in this present dispensation. It is rather true that the church is made up of a called-out people who are so changed in their relationship both to God and eternity and to things temporal and perishing that they constitute a new living organism of which Jesus Christ is the living head. The church is a movement within the limits of the world so far as location is concerned but a movement with new and eternal relationships which are experiential to every individual member of the movement.

The real business of the Christian church is not to reform society or build a new social order. In the measure that we reach individuals with the saving power of the Gospel, these desirable results will accompany salvation as the natural output of corrected human personalities, but the real mission of the church is to bring men face to face with God and with their own sin problem for the settlement of that problem on the basis of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When Christ left the carpenter's shop in Nazareth and assumed His official task in accomplishing the work He had been sent by the Father to do, He made this unique announcement, "I will build my church." His church is located on the earth but is a distinct body as described above. He has been building His Church throughout the centuries. His church is in the world but not of the world. Its mission is to save men from sin. The social and economic reforms which follow great revivals of religion are among the things which "accompany salvation." They stand as the by-product of the personal regeneration and sanctification of the individual.

It has been reported that in the great world conference where the first World War was settled, God was ignored. No word of prayer was

offered. The settlement was made on a purely human basis, with confidence placed in a human program without recognition of or dependence upon a sovereign God. It was of course doomed to utter failure. Any attempt on the part of the nations to build a new world order at the close of this present war will be as futile in the long run as was the effort at the close of the last World War unless those who are responsible turn to God truly and humble themselves and seek His guidance and blessing.

If I interpret the revelation of God in His Word correctly regarding the closing of the age we are in, the dove of peace will only light and abide temporarily upon the flags of the nations of the earth until after our Lord shall return and judge the living nations of the earth and establish a rule of righteousness under His own personal reign. We may be nearing this event. It is evident to me if we are not nearing this event, that whenever we approach the time that it will be realized, conditions very much like those prevailing today will have to be re-enacted. In the meantime let all who have a correct vision of the truth push the battle to save all we can out of the wreckage of this world order. Let us not dream of a universal brotherhood to be realized by any effort of man in the present age. The only hope for any prolonged period of peace and prosperity for our world is by the route of a mighty revival of pure and undefiled religion that will so save men in all the nations of the earth that in the love and fear of God they will obey the two great commandments to love God with all their heart, mind, might, and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves. This result can never be realized by the route of political reforms or by the efforts of a socialized gospel but only by the route of a universal proclamation and reception of the Gospel of Christ which is "the power of God unto salvation."

THE BIBLE IN SONG

The words of the hymn, "Rock of Ages," are printed by Charles Arthur Jones in the King's Business in such a manner as to show that all of them are identical quotations or paraphrases from the Bible. Inquiry of a Bible student concerning this brought the following statement:

"The song was not made up of quotations from various parts of the Bible. These citations simply express the thought voiced in the lines of the song."

The student declared that these references show what one inspired by a love of God will do when he undertakes to give expression to his deepest, devoutest feelings.

The lines quoted by Mr. Jones are as follows:

Rock of Ages, cleft for me (Psalm 62:5-8)
Let me hide myself in Thee (Ex. 33:22)
Let the water and the blood (1 John 5:6)
From Thy riven side which flowed (John 19:34)
Be of sin a double cure (2 Kings 2:9-10)
Cleanse me from its guilt and power (Isa. 1:18)
Not the labor of my hands (John 5:30, first clause)
Can fulfill the law's demands (Matt. 5:17-18)
Could my zeal no respite know (Psalm 6:6, first clause)
Could my tears forever flow (Psalm 6:6)
All for sin could not atone (Heb. 10:5-6)
Thou must save, and Thou alone Heb. 10:8-10)

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

A REPEAL GIRL

Once I was an innocent, beautiful, virtuous, religious, ambitious girl. I went to school and had lofty ideals of doing big things in life. I hoped some day to have a good husband and a happy home. I loved my church; I believed my Bible; I went to Sunday school; and was inspired to help the needy. I was much loved and admired by many friends.

Then from other folk whom I thought to be my friends, I caught the "Repeal Fever." I bobbed my hair, rolled down my stockings, cut off my skirts, pencilled my eyebrows, painted my lips and stained my finger nails. I was made to believe that my happiness depended upon my being "smart;" and that only popularity, pleasure and a sporty life were ideal; and was told that "everybody was doing it."

After hearing the cigarette "ads" on the radio, seeing them in the magazines and on the bill boards; and watching my so-called friends indulging, I, too, was influenced to smoke, and got a great "kick" out of sitting in public places, puffing in other people's faces.

Having lost my desire to go to church or be with the church folk, I went with the crowds to the dance halls, the road-houses, the beer gardens and the cocktail rooms. I soon became brazen enough to call for a drink at the bar. Soon I learned to gamble, played the races and had many after-midnight dates.

Now I have had my fling. I have been a "modern girl." I have had my personal liberty. My virtue is gone, my religion is gone; my old-time good friends are gone; my beauty is gone; my pride and holy ideals are gone. Here I am, an ugly, bleary-eyed, blotch-faced, cigarette-stinking, half-crazed, drunken sot. I have repealed everything that was good, noble, refined, beautiful, moral and spiritual in my life.

The few friends I have are as miserable as I am. My body is diseased; my heart broken; my noble ideals crushed; my motherly instincts dead; my good family name disgraced; my character ruined; my ambition gone; and my soul damned for ever. My past is evil; my present is hell; and my future dark. Here I am waiting for death to end it all, for I am nothing now but just A Repeal Girl.

Nothing in my hand I bring (Isa. 4:1)
Simply to Thy cross I cling (Gal. 6:14)
Naked, come to Thee for dress (Rom. 13:14, first clause)
Helpless, look to Thee for grace (Phil. 4:13)
Foul, I to the fountain fly (Psalm 51:7)
Wash me, Saviour, or I die (John 13:8, second clause)
While I draw this fleeting breath (Psalm 105:15-16)
When my eyelids close in death (Eccles. 12:3-7)
When I soar to worlds unknown (John 14:2, 3)
See Thee on Thy judgment throne (Matt. 25:31)
Rock of Ages, cleft for me (1 Cor. 10:4, third clause)
Let me hide myself in Thee (Psalm 17:8)
—Selected.