

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

—ECCLES. 12:1

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

Voice of the Reformed Baptist Y. P. A.

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WE MUST REBUILD RELIGIOUS FIBER, SAYS F. B. I. CHIEF...

With juvenile crime steadily on the increase Americans must "clean up democracy at home" by rebuilding their religious fiber and restoring their home values, is the view of J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Hoover asserts, "This country is in deadly peril. A creeping rot of moral disintegration is eating into our nation. I am not easily alarmed or shocked, but today like thousands of others, I am both alarmed and shocked. The arrests of teen-age boys and girls are staggering and they are danger signals which every parent, every responsible American should heed."

In an address before the 52nd annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police the chief G-Man gave facts on post-war crime, its cause and cure. Quotes from his address should start every thinking citizen on the road to action. He said, "The fingerprint files of the F. B. I. reveal a criminal army of six million individuals—one out of every twenty-three inhabitants of the United States. The rising trend of crime once again directs its attention to the home and the youth problem."

After pointing out the alarming increases in assaults, gambling and drunkenness in a speech before the Holland Society, the F.B.I. chief declared: "It is not too late to correct the situation. If every home were awakened to its responsibility, over night there would be a renaissance of that virile, indomitable spirit which is only found in free and God-fearing peoples. I am sure if more emphasis were placed on the Gospel of salvation, and less on social justice, the latter would be a greater reality."

"What we need," says Mr. Hoover, "is a return to God, more specifically a return to the practice of religion. That without doubt is the greatest need in America today."

"The crime situation is second only to the disastrous decay of religion. Sixty million of our fellow Americans make no profession of religion, many of them no belief in God. This is America's gravest peril."—Sel.

YOUTH CHALLENGES THE CHURCH

The rowdism of gangs of youth during the past few months has aroused much concern. One professor of sociology who came to America in the thirties from Germany says that American youth today is at the place where German youth were in the twenties. They had missed the excitement and to them, the glory of World War I. Also home discipline had relaxed because of the absence of one or two parents. Hitler presented a challenge: a challenge that would call for sacrifice which would lead to heroism. They responded. Finally they were led to war.

The church is on the spot. Can she and will she challenge the youth of today? Her attitude has been largely that of pampering and indulging youth until they to an alarming extent are being lost to the church. We must present the challenge of Jesus Christ. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for my sake

shall find it." If the Church fails in its God-appointed mission, youth will give its energies and its devotion to some base ideology. The Church dare not ignore the problem. It will not be solved by doing things for youth but rather by giving youth something to do for others. The challenge of the Cross has its everlasting appeal. It is the way of life and youth wants life.—R. Barclay Warren.

FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

Some people think of God as a tyrant. But such a conception is erroneous. Jesus, who was God, said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." Jn. 15:14-15.

Francis Bacon said, "This communicating of a man's self to his friend works two contrary effects; for he redoubleth joys, and cutteth griefs in half. For there is no man that imparteth his joys to his friend, but he joyeth the more: and no man that imparteth his griefs to his friend, but he grieveth the less." Into this intimate relation Jesus takes those who obey Him. But it's a friendship closer than with any earthly friend. For He is the friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He understands us better than we do ourselves. He invites us to cast all our care upon Him for He careth for us.

It is delightful to talk with Jesus our Friend. The meaning of "pray without ceasing" is apparent then. Reading His word and praying may engage the entire attention at stated times, but they are not laborious duties, timed by the clock. Here is the satisfying way of life—

"Why should I charge my soul with care?"

The wealth is every mine
Belongs to Christ, God's Son and Heir,

And He's a Friend of mine.

Chorus:

And He's a Friend of mine,

And He with me doth all things share,

Since all is Christ's and Christ is mine,

Why should I have a care?

For Jesus is a Friend of mine."

—R. Barclay Warren

A CROSS FOR ALL

By R. Barclay Warren

The night before the crucifixion Jesus prayed alone, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Then He returned to the three disciples and, finding them asleep, He reproved them saying, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again He prayed, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Jesus felt the weakness of the flesh, but in the second prayer there is stronger evidence of His overcoming that weakness.

It is natural to shrink from the cross. Moses said, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh. O my Lord I am not eloquent." Gideon exclaimed, "O my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Jeremiah protested, "Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child." But in each of the above instances, there was obedience. This is the path of discipleship. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,

And all the world go free?

No, there's a cross for every one,

And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear,

Till death shall set me free;

And then go home my crown to wear,

For there's a crown for me."

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Considerable publicity has been given to three pieces of jewelry brought from New York to Toronto with reputed value of \$3,000,000. There is some talk of a curse attending one or more of them. Apparently those who were their proud possessors did not always find life's great boon, happiness.

Twenty-five years ago I found a Pearl of great value. In fact, its value is so great that our system of numbers is incapable of expressing it. It is simply called a pearl of great price. There is great blessing and happiness attendant upon the possession of it; and who doesn't desire happiness? It costs something to acquire it. There must be a complete surrender of the will to Jesus Christ. Anyone may have it. All this and more is taught in a parable given by our Lord, Matt. 13:46-46. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

Great precautions are taken to protect the jewelry. But those who have found the Pearl are eager to share its blessings with others. For in helping others to enter the Kingdom their own happiness is increased.

—R. Barclay Warren

BUT GOD

I know not, but God knows: O blessed rest from fear!

All my unfolding days to him are plain and clear.

Each anxious, puzzled "Why?" from doubt or fear that grows

Finds answer in this thought: I know not, but he knows.

I cannot, but God can; O balm for all my care! The burden that I drop, his hand will lift and bear.

Though eagle pinions tire, I walk where once I ran;

This is my strength, to know I cannot, but God can.

I see not, but God sees; O all-sufficient light! My dark and hidden way to him is always bright.

My strained and peering eyes may close in restful ease,

And I in peace may sleep; I see not, but he sees.

—Selected.