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WHAT WILL TELEVISION DO TO OUR YOUTH?

By Oswald J. Smith, Litt. D.

It seems to me that television is going to be the greatest menace of modern times, and how Christians are going to be able to make use of it, I do not know. Anyone who has seen it in the States must be convinced of its danger. I know it can be used for good. It has tremendous possibilities, but I am afraid it is going to be used for evil, and that it will do more harm than Hollywood to demoralize the youth of our country.

It has been proved that the eye-gate makes a much greater appeal than the ear-gate, and while there will be good programs on television, there will be so many of the other kind that it is going to be most difficult to put on the one and blot out the other.

I will never forget how shocked I was when I visited homes in the United States where television had been installed. They told me about the lovely church services that could be seen, about the fashion parades, the concerts and other good programmes that could be turned on. But no sooner were the parents out of the room than the children, boys and girls in their teens, and those younger still, hurried to the television set and when some of us returned, we found them stretched out on the floor, fascinated by what they were seeing. And what was it that they were looking at? A bloody wrestling match where two men were tearing each other to pieces, trying to gouge out each other's eyes, drawing blood, and as they watched and listened to the groans and cries of the wrestlers, they could hardly control themselves. At another time they were watching a boxing match, following every blow with the greatest of interest, watching until one man knocked out the other, every motion and expression visible on the screen.

At still another time it was a night show, women for the most part unclad, drinking and smoking, going through sensual dances, every action plainly visible, the entire scene revolting and demoralizing. Yes, they could have turned on another program, they could have looked at something else, but they turned on that in which they were most interested, the scene that fascinated them. It was something they had never seen before. They were now seeing it for the first time. Sin had been brought into their home and was being displayed before their eyes.

For generations we have refused to take our children to night clubs, to wrestling matches and boxing bouts. We have never allowed them to see the sinister evil of this world. We have kept them way from the vulgar and the base

and as a result countless millions of Christians have never once even seen the degrading and loathsome scenes of sin and shame. They have breathed a pure atmosphere. Now these very scenes are to be brought right into the home and displayed before the children's eyes. It costs them nothing to see them, except a loss of moral standards. They can turn them on whenever they want to. They can see things that otherwise they never would have seen. In their early life they can now become acquainted with sin in its vilest form. No longer will parents be able to keep them in ignorance of the awful things that go on in this world.

I do not know the answer but I am afraid, very much afraid. I have always looked upon the movie world as the most demoralizing agency in existence. It alone is responsible for the teen-age gangs of today, and for the terrible things that children have been doing in this generation. But now something much more dangerous is available. The atomic bomb is bad, the hydrogen bomb is frightful, but television is going to be worse than either and far more destructive. It will completely wreck the rising generation, and before long it will turn the United States and Canada into a Sodom and Gomorrah, infinitely worse than the Sodom and Gomorrah of Bible times.

When that day comes, judgment will be inevitable. There will be no cure. God will have to wipe out the race, and it will be because of television and its diabolical influence on young minds. Science will have succeeded in wrecking civilization.

We Quote . . . Rev. W. H. Neff on

"THE CHURCH AT ITS BEST"

There is general agreement among evangelical leaders that the time left for evangelism at home and abroad rapidly is closing in. The reasons, I think, are at least two. One is eschatological—the end time approaches; the other is rapid rise of nationalism in certain areas of the world which is closing the borders of nations to outside influences.

These conditions call for the church of Jesus Christ to be at its very best now, living in the fullness of Pentecost. Only a devotion for Christ and an enthusiasm born of the Spirit that is stronger and sturdier than that of the false gods of nationalism and secularism—which is a high sounding word for worldliness—will carry us through to victory. World conditions will not be settled by another war. The way Christians think and live will be the determining factor in that settlement. It is as the church lives under the full tide of the Spirit that it can meet the challenge of this ominous but opportunity-filled day.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SOUND DOCTRINE

By Comm. S. L. Brengle

"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

Is Jesus Christ Divine? Is the Bible an inspired Book? Is man a fallen creature who can be saved only through the suffering and sacrifice of the Creator? Will there be a resurrection of the dead, and a day in which God will judge all the world by the man Jesus Christ? Is Satan a personal being, and is there a hell in which the wicked will be forever punished?

These are great doctrines which have been held and taught by His followers since the days of Jesus and His apostles, and yet they are ever being attacked and denied.

Are they true? Or are they only fancies and falsehoods, or figures of speech and distortions of truth? How can we find truth and know it?

Jesus said, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

What truth? Not the truth of the multiplication table, or of physical science, or art, or secular history, but spiritual truth—the truth about God and His will and character, and our relations to Him in Christ—that truth which is necessary to salvation and holiness—into all this truth the Holy Spirit will guide us. "He shall teach you all things," said Jesus (John 14:26).

How, then, shall we escape error and be "sound in doctrine"? Only by the help of the Holy Spirit.

How do we know Jesus Christ is Divine? Because the Bible tells us so? Infinitely precious and important is this revelation in the Bible; but not by this do we know it. Because the Church teaches it in her creed, and we have heard it from the catechism? Nothing taught in any creed or catechism is of more vital importance; but neither by this do we know it.

How then? Listen to Paul: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (I Cor. 12:3). "No man," says Paul. Then learning it from the Bible or catechism is not to know it except as the parrot might know it; but every man is to be taught this by the Holy Spirit, if he is to really know it.

Then it is not a revelation made once for all, and only to the men who walked and talked with Jesus, but it is a spiritual revelation made anew to each believing heart that in penitence seeks Him and so meets the conditions of such a revelation.

(Cont'd on Page 5)