

THE PROBLEM OF TELEVISION

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tion of influence. If a prominent Christian buys a T. V. set other Christians may consider that they are justified in doing so. Thus he may lead a weaker brother into temptation, and cause him to sin. 1 Cor. 8:9-13. Once we admit that T. V. brings the world into the home, we must be guided by Scriptures relating to worldliness. Paul says, "Be not conformed to this world." Rom. 12:2, James says, "The friendship of the world is enmity with God."—James 4:4. John says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." "Be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." 2 Cor. 6:17. If Jesus were here today, would He linger before a television screen?

Dare we, while civilization falls to pieces before our eyes, and while nations arm for war?

We run a grave risk by bringing television into the home. We place a powerful temptation before our children, and God will hold us responsible. Remember, once a television set is in the home it will be difficult to remove it. It will get such a grip on the worldly or unsaved members of the family that much unpleasantness will attend any attempt to discard it. I took the trouble to see a television program for children, and was shocked by its vulgarity, and hooliganism. Friends of mine are equally alarmed at the crime, murder, and violence shown in children's programs. Some of them regret having brought television into their homes.

Writing to the London Times some time ago, Mr. T. S. Eliot spoke of an experience of T. V. in America: "Among persons of my own acquaintance, I found only anxiety and apprehension about the social effects of this pastime, and especially about its effects (mentally, morally, and physically) upon small children. The fears of my American friends were not such as could be allayed by the provision of only superior and harmless programs, they were concerned with the television habit, whatever the program might be." While many Christians buy T. V., many non-Christian intellectuals will not have it in their homes. Even those who are not Christians are expressing concern at the effect of television on the people. Some say they seldom look at their T. V. Then why tie up large sums of money which could go to hard-pressed missionaries?

Others say they buy television to keep their children at home, and away from television in worldly homes. When I was a boy my parents did not need to rig up a theater in the home to keep me from theaters. Their word was enough; and they gave me other innocent pleasures.

Few will deny that the world is in the biggest crisis of its long troubled history. Many believe we are in the "last day" and that the world is arming for Armageddon, which will precede the return of Christ. A period of great tribulation faces humanity. Is this the time to indulge in television sets and other non-essentials? We are in the mid-night hour, and many people, like the foolish virgins, are asleep with their lamps out. How perilous! I do not judge any who have television sets, as I do not know their circumstances, but I appeal for warrior Christians who will (in view of the grave world crisis) forego this luxury (?) for Christ's sake and for revival.

—Advent Witness, England.

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A STORIETTE★

By Caswell Wilcox

Once upon a time, in a far away country, there lived a great and good man who possessed more gold and silver than any other man that ever lived. He had a vast estate, so large indeed that none can ever tell how many acres it contained. He also had more power that was ever given to any other person since the creation of the world. (This is a very beautiful country such as no man living on earth has ever seen. In this wonderful land no one ever grows old, or dies, but all live on and on and on.)

One day he fell in love with a fair and very modest young lady who was very pious indeed, having no equal in that section of the universe in which she lived (called the earth). This young lady he resolved to make his bride.

At that time there was a dreadful disease raging on the earth known as sin, or leprosy of the soul. At a time appointed by the father, he decided to marry her and take her home to live with him in that beautiful land we have heard so much about. He often visited his bride elect, always sending a message before him that preparations might be made for his reception. One day, in order that he might have an opportunity to get a greater and more convincing proof of her faithfulness and devotion to him, (which an old enemy of his had endeavored to share) he conceived the idea of calling on her at a time when he would be least expected. So he accordingly proceeded to earth, his heart thrilling with the thought of seeing the one he loved better than all else beside. Arriving at the town in which she lived he at once sought her home (which for comfort and true happiness was second only to his own) where to his great disappointment a servant informed him she was not at home but thought he might find her at the Social Club as she frequently attended there. Following the servant's direction, he soon located the place. Not seeing the object of his search there, he was told by an intimate friend of hers that she had been seen going in the direction of the dance hall, and as she occasionally danced, it was taken for granted that she was there. Here he was informed that she had declined the invitation to dance on the plea that the secret order of which she was a member of high standing held a special meeting that night. Quite crestfallen now, the dejected lover approached the lodge hall keeping in the shadows of the buildings for fear of being recognized as the lover of the girl he once felt so proud to call his own. Creeping up to a window that commanded a full view of the Guest Chamber he saw his affianced being grandly entertained by her new found friends which consisted of people of various occupations including sorcerers, adulterers, seducers, whoremongers, idolaters, murderers, blasphemers, thieves, rogues, drunkards, and those who loveth and maketh a lie. With an aching heart and surprised beyond measure, he at once returned to his father. When suddenly there came a great earthquake and the earth opened and this unfaithful woman and her companions fell into a horrible pit filled with fire and brimstone, where to this day groans and lamentations may be heard by any who wish to pass that way.

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"Not for a single day

Can I discern my way,

But this I surely know:

Who gives the day

Will show the way—

So I securely go."

—John Oxenham

The King's Highway