

Spiritual Call

A Continuance of "Macedonian Call"

*To be carnally minded is death, but to be
SPIRITUALLY minded is life and peace.
—Romans 8:6*

*Walk worthy of the vocation (calling)
wherewith ye are CALLED.
—Ephesians 4:1*

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Is God Chastening "Christians" Through Communism?

(The reasoning and exhortation in this essay were planned while the editor of the Spiritual Call lay on his back in a hospital. The war in Korea broke out while he was there; and he sought for a chain of causes of the terrible strife, and he cried to himself, What can I do? what can I do? This self-condemning, heart-rending essay is the result; and he earnestly asks the reader to walk with him hand in hand, carefully and prayerfully, as he points one by one to our sins in our bodies, the Church and the nation.)

(Seventh in a Series)

"MY SON, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? . . . Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure as seemed good to them; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."—Hebrews 12:5-11.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise [of coming again], as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."—2 Peter 3:9.

GENERAL VIEW

God has not turned his people loose altogether to flounder their way through life; but has given his word to warn them, and also given outward circumstances to warn—some, natural; and others, a special working through the natural. In the days of the Judges, the people obeyed God a while, then went into idolatry and other sins; then God brought them into the hands of their enemies; they repented, and he sent them a deliverer. Over and over again was this true.

When the kingdom was divided, the Ten Tribes—the Kingdom of Israel—went deep into idolatry; and after God warned them through the prophets, he brought the Assyrians against them who carried them into Assyrian Captivity, from which they never returned as a kingdom. The Two Tribes—the Kingdom of Judah—refused to learn from Israel's calamity and continued about a hundred years longer, resisting the pleadings of Jeremiah and other prophets, till God sent

Nebuchadnezzar who destroyed Jerusalem, killed many of the people, and carried a remnant away into Babylonian Captivity.

Under the gospel Paul says in Heb. 12:5-11, that God deals with his people as a wise father deals with his child. Such a father corrects his child to cause him to think and to walk aright. So God does not shield his children from all the evils in the world, but permits some evils to come to make them think, and to change their lives accordingly, if indeed they are true children of God.

As in the natural family, so in the family of God, "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Now we can not infer from this that all who receive persecutions and afflictions are disobedient children of God, nor that all who are prosperous and healthy are true children. We can not say that God caused that child over there to die, specially to bring the parents to repentance. God the Father knows what he is doing. He sends his rain and sunshine upon the just and unjust alike. "But all things work together for good, to them who love the Lord, to them who are the called according to his purpose." We can not peep within and know the workings of the mind of the Father. Paul even says "There must also be heresies among you, that they who are approved may be made manifest among you." (1 Cor. 11:19). God permits evils to come upon us, and sometimes sends them for our good, and we can not always know; but we do know that he loves his children who seek him.

HAVE NOT "CHRISTIANS" THEMSELVES LAID DOWN THE BARS FOR COMMUNISM BY THEIR "MODERNISM"?

We know that the leaders of communism are atheists; and are not the leaders in modernism leading their followers toward that very chaotic state? Is it not true that many of the "big preachers" in Protestantism do not believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, directly contrary to the belief of Christians through the ages? Do they not deny, many of them, that Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, though the New Testament so plainly teaches that? Do they not reject the doctrine that Jesus arose bodily from the grave? Is it not true that the Federal Council of Churches which includes most of the prominent denominations in Protestantism, is now largely in the hands of modernists who deny these age-old teachings of the Bible?

Did not a big bishop in a large denomination, a former president of this Federal Council, refer to the God of the Old Testament as "a dirty bully," because he punished the wicked for their sins? (See "Preaching in a Revolutionary Age", p. 79, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn.)

Is not the God of the Old Testament, the God of the New Testament, also, and can not the New also be rejected for the same reason, this modernist rejects the Old? For Paul says that Christ will come "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2 Thess. 1:8, 9)? Is not modernism a long step toward atheism?

Is it not true that modernists are no longer preaching the gospel of Christ in the New Testament, as so understood through the ages, but are trying to turn the church largely into a social center, governed by the wisdom of men rather than the wisdom of God? Is it not true that some of these leaders have been friendly with the doctrine of communism, and have endorsed organizations which our government calls "subversive"? Is it not true that the stagnation in Protestantism is due largely to this modernism? These are questions which all in this age should carefully consider.

**"CHRISTIANS" NOW PLAY AND LAUGH, AND DINE
AND DANCE, AND HAVE NO TIME NOR
DISPOSITION TO BUILD A
CHRISTIAN HOME**

The very Greek word for "church" means "called out," and the church was so named because it was called out of the world and is to be separate from the world. A "worldly" church is a contradiction in terms, for a worldly church is a no-church. Contrast the practice of "Christians" today with these divine warnings through the ages: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of the Lord abideth forever," (John 2:15-17).

"The friendship of the world is enmity with God, whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4).

The Christians of the First Age kept themselves so much aloof from the wicked people around them that they were called "haters of mankind," and were persecuted. The modern Church is not persecuted because it is so much like the world that you "can't tell one from tuther". They go to the same places and do the same things, and so many people say with a great deal of truth, "Why should I go into the church when I am as good as most of the people in the church?" At corrupt movies will be found these same "Christians," and at prize fights and dances and often at taverns. Perhaps half the whoopers and yellers at the games, are members of churches; and many who watch fights and games in movies or television, are professed followers of the Separated One. And all this though we are commanded to love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. No wonder there is no spiritual life in the Christian world. It is no longer the "Christian world" it is simply "the world"!

And of course such "Christians" have no time nor disposition to teach and train their children in moral and divine things. In fact, they could not have much influence if they did, for they would first have to practice what they teach. We wish to turn moral teaching over to the day school teacher, Sunday school teacher, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., etc. But there will be little real solution of the juvenile problem, till professed fathers and mothers take an interest in their children as God commanded.

In the Old Testament it was commanded: "These words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt

talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up," (Deut. 6:6, 7).

And Paul cracked down on fathers when he said, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," (Eph. 6:4). Where is there a "Christian" father today who obeys Paul? They are surely few and far between.

Recently a grandfather was reading to his grandchildren from a Bible story book, and explaining, about how Jesus came to this earth and did so much good to men and women, and yet was hated and was killed by wicked men; but he arose from the grave and ascended to heaven, and said that he would come again with a shout and with the angels and with great glory and great power, to reward those faithful to him, and punish the wicked. One of the grandchildren, about eight years old, said, quietly, "Grandpa, I like those stories."

Oh, God, what an open door to destroy the juvenile delinquency, at least in our little circle—a *child's heart which is anxious to learn the greatest story ever told!* And yet, we are too busy with the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches and lust of other things, that we have not time to teach them! There are ten or twelve million children in America between the ages of 6 and 10; and as nearly all children like to hear stories, they are all anxious to learn, and—we are too busy! But we shall not be too busy to stand before the Great Judge and hear these words, "Where are the children I told you to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?" And we will not be too busy then to hear the cry of the children, "Why didn't you tell us?" Then when the angels make the final separation, the words of the Savior will resound in our ears, "Because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Communists are teaching their children to lie and hate all non-communists and die for Stalin, the Destroyer; yet we neglect to teach ours the truth, and to love and die for Jesus the Savior.

And thus who knows but that the Korean War is God's chastening of us "Christians" that we may turn again to Him, and bring forth the fruit of righteousness, before the Savior comes.

The pleasure of exaggerated sex is helping destroy the home. Very many things belong to the homes besides sex. Newspapers, magazines, movies, advertisements of all kinds, display pictures of near-nude women, as if men did not have enough to do to control themselves without such suggestions. And professed Christian women help in the downward trend morally by their disobedience of God's command to dress in modest apparel. Personal beauty in form or feature seems to be the main attraction in women for sex-crazed men, but they have learned afterwards to their sorrow that they have made a great mistake. Of course, personal attractions are not despised, but the main things to hold a true man and woman together are honesty, modesty, sincerity, compatibility, religion. Such Christian virtues are loved even without regard to sex.

Over emphasis of sex leads to divorces in courts, and divorces break up the home, the church and the nation.

Can we wonder then if God sends or permits some punishment upon his people when they so flagrantly and universally disobey great principles of his religion?

**"WOE UNTO HIM THAT GIVETH HIS NEIGHBOR
DRINK."—Hab. 2:15.**

Statistics show that in nearly two-thirds of the fatalities on Indiana highways, liquor is involved. No doubt the same holds true in other states. And now the government after

bringing liquor back to the people, makes an investigation as to why we drink so much of it.

No doubt one of the causes is the deceptive and enticing advertisements displayed in magazines and newspapers. They picture the rich, noted, beautiful, educated, aristocratic people as drinking their damnable stuff, and thus lead many unwary young people to think it is smart to drink the treacherous poison.

Two or three years ago, a preacher sent this one sentence to the "Voice of the People" in three great daily papers—"Why do editors, publishers, stockholders of magazines and newspapers, who profess to be Christians, put deceptive liquor advertisements again and again in their publications, and thus help to debauch our nation?" *Not one of the three papers published the sentence!* For gold they will wreck the bodies and souls of unwise readers of their literature, and will not tolerate rebuke. But it still remains true from the lips of God, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink."

And if liquor had not flowed so freely at Yalta, Cairo, and the other great conferences of leaders of the nations on international affairs of the greatest importance, perhaps the world would not be in the terrible mess it is now in. And from reports in the newspapers, if liquor had not flowed so freely in Washington, D. C., perhaps the leaders of America would have had clearer heads and would not have put America in the most humiliated position it perhaps was ever in.

Yes, it may be that the distress we are now in from communists, is the chastening of professed Christians by God, to cause them to bring forth fruits of righteousness before he comes to accept us or spue us out.

DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE 13 BILLION DOLLARS SPENT YEARLY IN AMERICA FOR GAMBLING?

The chances are that some of our readers do. Did you ever bet money on a horse race? Did you ever buy a ticket in a lottery? Did you ever bet on a football game, basketball game, or baseball game? Or prize fight, or anything else? This spirit has been in all of us, and even the writer when a boy became so used to the word, that he used often the expression "I'll bet you," and he had to learn to "cut it out," in his preaching and writing! Betting is a disgrace to Christ and contributes to the downfall of the nation. For gambling is a disease with people, and many of them will give their last dime for the thrill of thinking that they might receive a big something for a little risk. And so on and on and on, till they are impoverished and their families suffer. Many a crime has been committed to get money to run the chance.

Even churches join with the Christian (?) people in the excitement. The dear sisters in Christ (?) make a quilt and raffle it off! Fortune wheels are spinning at church fairs and festivals and bazaars! Bingo parties are encouraged to raise money to help the Lord out of his financial trouble which we have gotten him into by our pride and ambition! And these professed followers of Jesus continue to disobey Him who says, "Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Rom. 12:17.

Yes, we even "gamble" on death and the hereafter. We gamble with the devil that we can go on serving him in health and prosperity, and then when we can serve him no longer, we gamble that we give him a quick turn and fall into the arms of Jesus and live in joy forever; and thus that we can receive something for nothing! But Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21.

Don't gamble with your soul, beloved, it is the most precious thing you have; for, "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

FINE CHURCH BUILDINGS ROB THE POOR AND HELP COMMUNISM

You say you do not see the connection, but wait and see. God did not originally command the building of Solomon's temple, which so many "Christians" use as a plea for magnificent houses of worship; but when David proposed it he did submit to his desire, and permit him to gather materials for Solomon, his son and a man of peace, to build a temple. "Yea, Solomon built him an house. *Howbeit the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands.* (Acts 7:47, 48.) Jesus said to the woman of Samaria, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. . . . But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH; for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:21-23. Here Jesus shows that the worship of God is not to be in a special place or magnificent house, as in Jerusalem, but in spirit, in heart, in mind; and according to the truth, his Word.

I have seen the great church buildings of the world and admire them for their architecture. I have walked through the aisles of St. Paul's cathedral in London; have stood and gazed at the great height of the two spires of the Cologne, Germany, cathedral (which towers were finished in part with a lottery—a disgrace to Christ); I have wondered at the magnificence of the cathedral in Milan, Italy; I have sauntered in St. Peter's in Rome. And yet the inspired Stephen still says, "The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands." And Paul says, "Know ye not that YE [CHRISTIANS—not a building] are the temple of God." I Cor. 3:16. What a caricature, then, on the church which Christ established, for the word "church" is not once used in the New Testament for a building, but always of the people. The early church met in private homes, upper rooms, catacombs, anywhere they could, and be unmolested. The early church had no fine church buildings, but they turned the world upside down morally and spiritually, for they had faith; we have the fine buildings all right, but the world is turning "Christians" upside down, because we lack the faith.

As quoted above, the Christians are the temple of God, not buildings. Christians, in their conduct, are the magnificent structure which is to attract the attention of the world. Behold, the adornment of the church at Jerusalem—disciples sold their possessions and helped take care of the needy. Behold the church at Corinth (and the same was to apply to other churches)—"now concerning the collection for the saints . . . upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him," I Cor. 16:1, 2. That collection was for poor saints not for a magnificent church building. But today we take the collections for the temple of pride, and let the poor saints shift for themselves.

Many churches put themselves into debt so that they have to strain themselves for years to pay for their house of pride; and they have little time and money and disposition for the real work of God—saving the lost and helping the poor. In fact, they beg and beg and beg, till the poor, who have little or nothing to give, are driven from the doors. We have turned the First Church upside down—the First church had favor with all the people because they took care of the needy, and we turn the people against the church because we drive the needy away; and then we are surprised that there are so many empty seats.

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Can we wonder, then, that God would chasten us with communism, or some other calamity, when we draw such an unsightly picture of His church?

Paper says that America has allocated \$700,000,000 for new and improved church buildings. American "Christians" would better fall on their knees and beg God to forgive them for their pride, and dedicate that money to real gospel evangelization and to the helping of the poor. Paul speaks of Christians in the last days, as "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof,"—denying the power of godliness to convert people, and insisting on some mere form of their own devising. Paul then adds, "From such turn away," 2 Tim. 3:5. When one finds that he can not reform this corrupt Christianity, then he should get out and start in all over again, as reformers have done in all ages.

A couple of months ago, a national magazine told the story, with pictures, of a motor cycle cop in a small town who passed a small shack of a cottage, which he noticed did not have any door; and he wondered if any one lived there. When he had passed he saw a woman hanging out some clothes, but he rode on. His conscience kept jabbing him till he went back, and made a noise (there was no door to knock on), and finally a woman peeked out, and he could see within a girl lying in bed. He talked with the woman a while and got the circumstances, and said he thought he could find a door, and left. When he and another got there, they finally found that there was nothing substantial to attach the door to. They got some carpenters; and finally all decided that the only thing was to take the shack down and build a little cottage. One neighbor promised to do the plumbing, another said he would furnish the hardware, another would help on the carpenter work, another would help on the foundation, etc., till the charity spirit spread, and soon the whole little town was in on it. They had the crippled girl taken to a hospital for treatment, and the mother somewhere else, till the neat little substantial cottage of two rooms (I think) was finished, and the donors had a blow-out, and all came together with a joyous spirit to bring the woman and her daughter home. That was the idea as I remember from the hasty reading of the article. That was Christianity at work. "Be ready unto every good work", "Do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Now suppose the churches in EVERY community were heading such work, and *would keep at it*, along with the telling of the story of Jesus and his love and commands, how far do you suppose the communists would get in such a community? The contributions of the Christians were first intended "for the poor saints", 1 Cor. 16:1, 2. Of course, Jesus Christ did not come into the world to help the poor, but he did that as part of the Father's will; but he came into the world to save sinners, and then when they are saved they will do such work along with their service directly to God.

It is the poor whom "the church" has neglected, that is the soil in which communism grows. Come back, come back America, to God's Christianity—

"YE are the temple of the living God."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

"YE are our epistle written in our hearts, *known and read of all men*," 2 Cor. 3:2.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, *hypocrites!* for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, **JUSTICE, MERCY AND FAITH**; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone," Matt. 23:23.

GOD'S CHRISTIANITY VERSUS MAN'S CHURCHANITY

The early church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (teaching), fellowship (partnership, contribution), breaking of bread (Lord's Supper), and prayers. (Acts 2:42); and they spake to themselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. They were so interested in helping each other that many sold their possessions and laid the money at the apostles' feet to distribute to the needy. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread (meals) from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added unto them day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46, 47, Revised Standard Version.)

Bishops, elders, were over one congregation only, 1 Tim. 3: Titus 1. They were not to be "lords over God's heritage, but *examples* to the flock. Yea, *all* of you be subject one to another", (1 Peter 5:1-7), in all things which do not affect the commands of God, for in them we are to "obey God rather than men." No Christians were to try to boss their brethren, but they were to "humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may *exalt* them in due time." (1 Pet. 5:6). There was to be no mere outward form among them, but they were to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Those early Christians had no fine church buildings to drain their time and money from the poor; no conventions of uninspired men to dominate their brethren; no drives, no rallies, no pilgrimages to so-called holy places. They had no human organizations to do charitable, educational, or missionary work for Christians, for this was all done by the individual Christians and the local churches. There was no distinction of clergy and laity, for all were kings and priests unto God. They had no festivals, shows, nor bingo parties, nor raffles, nor other worldly or gambling devices to raise money, for Christians were to *give* as they had been prospered. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2).

Oh, how saddening that complex, unscriptural, lifeless "Churchanity," has taken the place of the simple, sincere Christianity of the First Church of Christ! There is no excuse for us, for Paul warned in the First Century, "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be *corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*," (2 Cor. 11:3). We can pray for unity from now till doomsday, but it will do no good, till we turn from Churchanity back to the Christianity of the First Age.

Churchanity has helped make communists.

1800 YEARS AGO GOD SETTLED THE PROBLEMS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR, CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM

These are the biggest political questions in all the world today, and men are dying and many more will die, to enforce their idea of settlement. Here is God's solution—

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, *do ye even so to them.*" Matt. 7:12.

"Servants [workers] be obedient to them that are your masters [bosses] according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness [sincerity] of your heart, *as unto Christ*; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers [simply when the boss has his eye on you] but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God *from the heart*; with good will doing service, *as to the Lord*, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord whether he be bond or free. And ye masters [bosses, capitalists] do the same things unto them [treat the servants, workmen, as if they were Christ], forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also in heaven: *neither is there respect of persons with him.*" Eph. 6:5-9.

This solution of the problem of capital and labor, capitalism and communism is that all Christian masters, bosses, capitalists are to treat their men as if they were Christ; and the servants, workmen, are to treat their bosses as if they were Christ. Jesus says also, "Inasmuch as ye did it . . . or did it not, to one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it . . . or did it not to me."

It was a sin to steal the negroes in Africa and other places and sell them to the early settlers; and it was a sin for Christian settlers to buy them. No doubt many Christian families treated these slaves as Paul commended in the quotation above; but also most of the masters did *not* treat the slaves as if they were Christ, *and did not* do unto them as they would wish to be treated.

The Old South was largely built upon the sweat and toil of the negro. But there came a day of reckoning; and indirectly slavery led to the Civil War with all its misery. Now there is a "colored problem" in the South and in the North; and the chickens of man's covetousness have at last come home to roost. Drawing the line on colored races, the world over has planted the seeds of discontent that communists have stirred among hundreds of millions of people, to conquer the world for Russia. This communism may be God's "chastening" of the professed Christians for their "respect of persons" (see James 2), which he clearly condemned. God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." Acts 17:26.

In the north of the U.S.A. the great industrialists, such as owners of steel mills, coal mines, railroads, imported immigrants, or urged it, so that for years a million or more foreigners were herded to our country to work in their industries. Though these foreigners did as well or better than in their native land, yet professed Christian financiers did not treat these foreigners as if they were Christ, but exploited them, and made their fortunes through them, and did not give them that which was just and equal. These uneducated foreigners were corralled in cities and became preys of unscrupulous politicians who built corrupt political machines through their votes.

India, the East Indies, South America, Africa have been exploited, too, in a similar way; and though they often brought advancement to those peoples, they gave them only a small per cent of the benefits of their natural resources.

The communists in their plea (one might call it their religion) of helping the laboring man (which is now used

nearly altogether to help Russia conquer the world)—have built up the greatest menace to the peace of the world, which man has ever seen. If people were left to their own free will, it might be tolerated; but by the use of every evil device known to the devil, the communist movement has become an international gangsterism.

But as much as we condemn this ruthless movement, we "Christians" are not altogether guiltless in this turmoil which is engulfing the world.

HAS GOD SENT THE SPIRIT OF STUPIDITY UPON THE LEADERS OF AMERICA?

Some may doubt that God has sent it, but how can you explain it in any other way? The asinine foreign policy of our nation in China and Korea, and the utter unpreparedness of our nation against the Greatest Liars the world has ever seen, cause thinking people to wonder. Anyway, the great United States of America is up against the greatest menace it, or the world, has ever seen.

Maybe this all is, as we have said, chastening sent from God, to warn us Christians before he pours out his wrath on the disobedient, and before he comes to be admired in his saints.

He knows and we know what injustice we have exercised toward others. He knows and we know what lack of mercy we have had toward those who have come into our power. He knows and we know the lack of faith we have had in Him or his word, and the confidence in our own plans and schemes. We have had a form of godliness but have denied the power of godliness, and have tried to win and hold people by worldly means.

We thought we were safe because we were rich, and increased with goods and had need of nothing; but now we know we are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, before God and the evil power of cruel communism.

O, God, as our sons and brothers and husbands march away again to die in the fight for freedom—as far away as they can get on this earth—may we Christians receive with humbleness this chastening of the Lord; may we fall upon our knees every day and pray God to forgive us for our backslidings; may we daily read and meditate upon this *and obey it*, and try with all our hearts to persuade others to do the same,—till there is a great Christian awakening in our land and in the world, and till God takes away the chastening and accepts us again as His own, and makes us ready for his second coming.

[Note—We are having extra copies of this issue printed. Why not sit down and write the name and address of every thinking, troubled soul you know, and hand to, or send, him a copy? The exhortation may help bring them back.—Publisher]

Isaiah 1:19

God's promises to man are given upon conditions; and these conditions can be summed up under the one statement, "If ye be willing and obedient."

Man from the beginning has been inclined to follow his own opinions and plans. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23). Knowing this God has revealed in his word how man must walk in order to be acceptable to him.

Soon after the church was established man began to follow his own counsel, thus forsaking the counsel of God. He has shown that he was neither willing to be, nor obedient to, the commands of his Maker; and on account of this attitude we have had strife and division, all because man has been un-

willing to follow the, "Thus saith the Lord." They have asked "What does that mean?" or "It means this or that."

But hear what the Lord says; "As for the prophet, and the priest, and the people that shall say, The burden of the Lord, I will even punish that man and his house. Thus shall ye say *every one* to his brother, What hath the Lord answered? What hath the Lord spoken? (Jer. 23:33-35).

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Is. 8:20).

Seeing that we know these things we ought to be very careful how we handle the word of God. It is inflexible and it will judge us in the last day. Why not accept God's word and cast away our mere opinions. Our opinions will not count when we stand before the Judge. We think too much of ourselves. We are proud of what *we* have accomplished. But "God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble." (1 Pet. 5:5). Compared to the billions that have lived upon this earth we are as a grain of sand upon the seashore, yet we are puffed up and proclaim, "See what I have done." Oh! the millions that are rushing to eternal ruin because "they think too highly of themselves."

We have too many who set themselves up as authority and not enough doers of the word. Why not preach Christ and him crucified? Forget ourselves. Christ is the power of God, and the wisdom of God. The Devil was lifted up in pride and was cast out of heaven. Do we want to be like Satan and be kept out of heaven because we think we know more than others who have the same book to guide them, as we for *our* guide.

Life is too short, eternity is too long for us to waste our time in setting forth our own importance. Let us proclaim, "What hath the Lord answered?" What hath the Lord spoken? We will be judged by what the Lord has spoken, according to our works.

Yours for a humble spirit, and the upholding of the word of the Lord as revealed to us in his book.

The blessings of the Lord be upon all who love him in sincerity and truth, is my prayer.

C. D. McCAY.

The Divine Plan

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." Col. 1:16.

The climax of this sweeping declaration is his preeminence as head of the church. "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell." Note verses 16 through 19. The Church of Christ is a divine creation, Eph. 2:10; it was built by the Son of God, Matt. 16:18.

In the creation of the material universe "he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Psa. 33:9. "Upholding all things by the word of his power," is a New Testament statement concerning the same thing, and we find the statement associated with our redemption. See Heb. 1:3. We may look into the heavens and view his wondrous work in all of its correlated beauty and harmony. Psa. 19:1. We are enveloped in the wonderful works of God, whether we acknowledge him or not. It is in the material universe, where God's commands hold complete control, that perfect accord has prevailed through the ages.

The Church of Christ is just as much a divine creation as any other part of God's creative work, and the same sweet accord and harmony that we see in the universe should prevail in this divine institution. This wonderful state could be achieved were it not for the human element in the whole

arrangement. Unlike the rest of God's creation, man was created a free moral agent. Acting, not as a machine, but by choice, he bows in submission to the will of God, and fulfills the purpose of his being, which is to glorify his maker. See Isa. 43:7.

The beauty of the divine plan varies in proportion to our faithfulness and devotion to God. We should remember that others see this beauty of sweet accord in The Church of Christ just as certainly as we can look into the heavens and behold the glory of God. It was by such reasoning that Paul outlined a course of conduct in Phil. 2:12-16. Here we find in regular sequence, obedience; working out our salvation with fear and trembling; God working in us; harmony and Christian unity; shining as lights; and "Holding forth the word of life." Let us not forget the true basis for unity, as we find it clearly outlined in our Lord's prayer, John 17:20-21, and let us note the influence that such accord has over the world, as stated in the last phrase of verse 21. Finally, let us strive to get more of the human element out and more of the divine plan into our lives; let us pray "that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified." 2 Thess. 3:1. Yours in Christ Jesus, Fred W. Fenton.

"Be Steadfast"

"Be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."—1 Cor. 15:58.

We are admonished to be "stedfast". It is a tonic, an inspiration, to meet with stedfast people. That implies that there is something inherently strong and unchangeable, something that belongs to the character of the man himself. It is not that which is made or fashioned by external influences; but, like a great granite rock that cannot be dissolved, it is always the same. It carries its weight, its abiding, its essential stedfastness, within itself.

"Be ye stedfast." Why? *Because this is true.* This truth must become a part of you. You are not merely to view it objectively, and admiringly; but receive the truth in the love of it. It imparts its own unchangeable nature to the man who has received it. He is rooted and built up in Christ, and established in Him, as he has been taught.

One always knows where to find a "stedfast" man. He can be depended upon. He is always the same, in every emergency. Like a rock he remains in his place, a stedfast soul. We are lacking today seriously and sadly in this character of stedfastness. There are so many changeable creatures. There is a word that is very commonly used of certain people—they are "unpredictable." You have them today, but where on earth they will be tomorrow, no one knows. They are standing for one thing today. Tomorrow they may be found standing for the opposite. They have no stedfastness.

What is it that makes that volatility, that changeableness, that mutability, that you cannot depend on people? Do you remember how Peter admonishes his readers to beware that they fall not into the error of the wicked, and thus fall from their own stedfastness. It is opening the mind to error, to all sorts of vagaries, that makes people, as Lord Balfour once described them.—"Wibbly, wobbly, like blanc mange."

A man brought me one day a bundle of books and magazines. There was Mrs. Eddy's *Science and Health*, and also a biography of her, denouncing her, and showing what a charlatan she was. He had something on Seventh Day Adventism, something on Unity—whatever that is. He had a little bit of everything in his basket. He said, "I have been studying it all, and I don't know where I am." I said, "I don't wonder." There could be no "stedfastness" there; he had fallen

into a dozen errors, and therefore had fallen from his own "stedfastness".

I used the metaphor of a piece of granite. I don't know whether there is any kind of chemical that could dissolve a piece of granite. I don't suppose there is. But if there were, then I should liken it to that one thing—error which, if a man opens his mind and heart to it, will destroy the foundations of his faith, until by and by he loses his faith.

To what are we coming? I mention something that ought to shock believers, to produce an earthquake in the denomination to which that church belongs. There ought to be a protest of hundreds of thousands against it: In a United Church on Bathurst St., a debate is advertised for their Sunday night forum on—"Is God Necessary?" argued by a humanist, and defended by someone related to the Student Christian Movement.

To what has the professing church come, when it is possible, in a house dedicated to the worship of God, that the question should even be raised, "Is God Necessary?" It is blasphemy. Give that pastor my compliments, and tell him I said so.

Someone said to me only this last week, "I put my hand on the rail that Spurgeon used to put his hand on as he went into his pulpit, and I wept to see to what that place had come." He went on to say, "My wife and I are constantly praying that when you are gone, Jarvis Street Church had better be blotted out, and cease utterly to exist than that it should ever lend itself to influences that would be destructive of the gospel."

"Therefore" don't you know these things are true? Have they not passed beyond the realm of doubt and uncertainty? Are you not absolutely sure that God is, and that He is the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him? Are you not sure that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh? that He died for you, and was buried, and rose again, and ascended into heaven? Let me give my testimony: I am more sure of that than I am of these material things I touch, this pulpit, these books. It is the one indubitable factor of human existence, that God, as manifest in Christ, is the most real thing in life, the Creator and Preserver of all.

Knowing these things, "Therefore"! That is the logician's word: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast", like the truth you profess to believe:

"Wide as the world is Thy command,
Vast as eternity Thy love;
Firm as a rock Thy truth shall stand,
When rolling years have ceased to move."

Oh, that God would make us "stedfast" by the reception of the truth. Yes; and by what I tried to tell you last Sunday morning, by the indwelling of the immutable Spirit; Who dwells with you, and shall be in you. And if Christ be in you He is the hope of glory, and nothing can extinguish that hope: "Therefore, be ye stedfast".

I say that has to do with the essential character of a man, what we are, what we have become, what we have been made: by the grace of God.—*Christian Beacon*.

THE BEST AND HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

They are Christians, not in name only but in practice. Take your concordance and see how many times the words are used—happiness, kindness, mercy, gratitude, joy, peace.

The Pathfinder prints the following concerning a man who was a Christian at least in happiness, and concerning his townspeople who were acting, too, like Christians ought to act!

For eight years Harley Hasty delivered the mail in the small Illinois town of Morton. But Harley also delivered something else. From one end of town to the other, Harley's daily cheerfulness lifted spirits, brought a kind of glow to Morton, and seemed to make the town—and the world—a better place to live in.

Just how better was not fully realized until last week, after 35-year-old Harley died. The whole town grieved. Then it was discovered that Harley had dispensed cheer even while finding it an almost impossible financial task to support his wife and five children and pay off a \$7,500 mortgage on his home at the same time.

For the friendship Harley gave as he carried the mails around, the townspeople last week decided to show their appreciation. On porches all over town lights burned—signals that the occupants inside were willing to contribute to help take care of that mortgage. So far, better than \$2,500 has been raised, another \$1,000 is in sight. An anonymous businessman has promised to take care of the last \$2,000. As one townsman put it, "Harley taught us something about kindness."

"WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM COMMUNISM?"

That was practically the question the editor of this paper tried to answer in the hospital, which he has given under the title, "Is God Chastening 'Christians' through Communism?" There are many important facts and exhortations there, which may help solve the question. At least, it provokes thought. If you endorse these exhortations and truths it is up to YOU to get them to those they might help.

Try This: Get a group of Christians together (so as not to duplicate), and take down the names and addresses of all prominent, intelligent, thoughtful people in your community you can think of, and send them marked copies of the paper. Such as the mayor, scrupulous lawyers, doctors, ministers of churches, Sunday school teachers, presidents of ladies' societies, school teachers, business men, librarians, etc. The editor has spent days writing the article—will you spend a little time and money spreading it? Let's start NOW.

COMING OUT OF BABYLON

God says of Babylon (confusion), "Come out of her my people." In Kansas City, three or four months ago, Fred Fenton, a preacher, saw he could do no good where he was and came out of Babylon, where they were following men instead of God. A few others came with him. Still others have taken their stand with him. And a letter came today says, Ralph Aeree (an elder in a church in Independence, Mo.), his son's family and his daughter's family, and Brother and Sister Blunt, put in their membership last Lord's Day. "There were 56 present."

The religious world is in such corruption and confusion, that when one tries to reform it, he is brusquely pushed aside, and there is nothing left for him to do but like all reformers, to start up according to the Lord's plan. Let us start in as never before to restore the LIFE, DEVOTION, SPIRITUALITY, CHARITY, of the First Church of Christ, mentioned in Acts of Apostles. We have referred to that in the article, "Is God Chastening 'Christians' Through Communism?" That is the purpose of the Spiritual Call. Are you with us in that? Write us what you think.

THE EDITOR'S HEALTH—We are glad to announce that the doctor has discharged us, and even said that our heart was now stronger than it was before the sickness. Of course, we intend to take it easy till we know that for certainty. The new channels formed around the blood clot seem to be working all right . . . Again I express my gratitude to the many brothers and sisters who have sent cards and letters and donations to help keep things going. Practically every letter mentions that they are praying that we may soon be restored. Today a card came even from Texas reading thus: "Just received the Spiritual Call and learned of your sickness. We are so sorry to hear about it. We know you have fought a long, hard, fight, and are ready to go, but we are selfish enough to hope and pray you stay and help us a long time yet. We depend a lot on you and your paper."—Texas. We have received dozens such letters, but forbear lest readers misunderstand. We are very much encouraged to go on, and feel now that we have many years to fight the devil . . . Statements were made in a private letter about the good protracted meeting at Wood River, Ill., but no Report has as yet been sent in. They, too, came out of Babylon, a couple of years ago, and now have about 70 members.

"THE LORD HATH NEED"

When the Master sent His disciples to bring the colt upon which He would make His entry into Jerusalem, the owners of the colt said, "Why loose ye the colt?" And they said, "The Lord hath need of him." The Lord of heaven and earth. He who would say, "The cattle on a thousand hills are mine," in infinite grace and humility of spirit deigned to say that He who had created all things by the word of His power needed this humblest beast of burden. Even so does He need the life of each man and woman who has been born into His heavenly kingdom . . . How precious, then, is this thought that the Lord really *needs us!*

—James H. McConkey.

"OLD AND IN THE WAY"

I sit in the chimney corner and I hear the young folks say:
"The world is weary of her—she is old and in the way;
And a vacant chair were better—a solitary place
Than the palsied, wrinkled hands of her and the tear-wet
furrowed face."

They do not know I'm walking where their feet have never
trod,

They do not know I'm seeing visions on the hills of God.
They do not know that angels are where my footsteps roam.
In the ways of the lights celestial, where the morning stars
sing "Home."

I nursed them at my bosom, ere life's sun went down the west;
I sang love's sweetest music to them and rocked their hearts
to rest;

And now that sad time hastens, at the closing of life's day,
I am a useless woman, I am old, and in the way.

Thank God, it will soon be over, life's sun is sinking fast,
My feet are in the valley, and I see my home at last!
And I say, while angels beckon, "Poor, and old, and grey,
There is room for me in heaven, where I'll not be in the way."
—Unknown.

DIFFERING VALUES

A convert at the Billy Sunday meetings in Scranton, Pa., remarked, "On my farm I raise blooded stock, and there is not a person for miles around who would not go to great lengths to warn me if one of my prize cows got on the rail-road track; yet for twenty-five years never a man spoke a word to me about my spiritual welfare."

—S. S. Times.

TELL HIM SO

If you hear a kind word spoken
Of some worthy soul you know,
It may fill his heart with sunshine
If you only tell him so.

If a deed, however humble,
Helps you on your way to go,
Seek the one whose hand has helped you
Seek him out and tell him so.

If your heart is touched and tender
Toward a sinner, lost and low,
It might help him to do better
If you only tell him so.

Oh, my sisters; oh, my brothers,
As o'er life's rough path you go,
If God's love has saved and kept you,
Do not fail to tell him so.

—Selected.

GOD'S UNCHANGING WORD

For feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God,
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel con-
demned

For want of some sweet token,
There is one greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever;
For tho' all things shall pass away,
His Word shall stand forever.

—Martin Luther.

FELLOW TAXPAYERS:

More than \$13 billion a year—almost as much as we are spending for the nation's defense—is taken from the American "sucker" public by gamblers, according to a survey just completed by the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Offtrack horse bets are said to account for 8 of these billions, numbers rackets for 3 billion, slot machines for 1, and nonhorse sports bets for 1.

The survey, described as "the most thorough and comprehensive study of gambling that has ever been made," is contained in 17 articles in the May issue of the organization's magazine, "Annals," edited by Morris Plossowe, New York magistrate, and Edwin J. Lucas, former executive secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Crime. It included a study of the nation's tinkering with all forms of games of chance.

—Daily Paper.

THE SILENT PREACHER

I preach some weighty sermons,
But utter not a word;
And tell folks things worth hearing
Although I can't be heard.

Born of a love for mortals,
I help those in distress
To find the loving Jesus,
Who gives the weary rest.

I go into the prisons
Where captives sadly mope,
And for eternal freedom
I tell them how to hope.

Unto the sick I hasten
With a prescription sure;
Tell where the poor and needy
Great riches can secure.

'Tis strange but true: my message
Doth comfort, bless, and cheer;
Yet oft the truths I herald
Make sinners quake and fear.

Yes, many miles I travel—
And sometimes I'm sent back,
I go where you can't enter,
For I am A GOSPEL TRACT.

—Geneva Ray.