

Macedonian Call

"Come Over into Macedonia and Help Us."—(Acts 16:9.)

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THE CRASH OF NATIONS AND THE CRASH OF WORLDS



OUR hearts are troubled. Often we can not sleep at nights. Who can sleep when his neighbor's house is on fire? All Europe is in flames. Who knows what house, what city, what country will be next? The fifth column may spring up anywhere, everywhere. Oceans are not barriers to it. Giant tanks go lumbering along, crushing almost everything dear to human hearts. Diving planes shatter the peace of homes and nations.

Solemn pledges are trampled lightly under foot when dictators see advantage in breaking them. Mussolini crushes Albania for no cause. Stalin slaughters the Finns for more land for his outposts of war. Hitler takes Austria and solemnly says he has no more territorial aspirations; he is handed the Sudetenland, and grabs the whole of Czechoslovakia; "this is enough", and he crushes Poland; he is satisfied now, yet enslaves Denmark and rapes Norway; he solemnly vows to spare Holland and Belgium, yet like a murderer strikes these weaker neighbors at night; he always loved France, yet crushes her into the dust. His chief weapon is not a Messerschmidt nor a giant tank, but—a LIE. Broken treaties, false promises, devilish treachery—these are the

strongest implements of war he has yet employed, and they are weapons, too, which may be his own downfall, for what strong nation will make a treaty with a LIAR.

Lie, lie, lie. It was through a lie that sin entered the world, and the last character condemned in the Bible is: "Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." The greatest evil in the world is a lie.

It is natural to expect that the actors in such infamous havoc have no regard for the God of Mercy, Justice and Truth. Stalin is an atheist and persecutes all religion, so why should he worry about a Judgment where injustice toward the weak will be avenged? Mussolini is an opportunist using religion merely as a means of conquest, and stabbing his helpless neighbor in the back. Hitler persecutes Jews, Catholics and Protestants, tried to turn God into a sort of German Fuehrer; and though failing to force the German people to worship the old heathen gods, he did name his western defense the "Siegfried Line", after a hero-god. And the Emperor of Japan claims to be descended from the Sun. It is this four-headed monster that now stalks through the world seeking whom he may devour. This is the beast which is

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debauching or destroying religion and the liberties and peace of man. No wonder you are troubled. No wonder you can not sleep. All that free, Christian people prize—religion, justice, freedom, mercy—is being trampled under foot. If Hitler wins, the whole world must become an armed camp or sink into servitude.

In our hearts we have cried: "Why does the God of Truth and Justice and Mercy permit such a cruel monster to live?" Millions of these oppressed have cried to Him for help, yet He has seemed to hear them not. In answer we ask, Why did God permit Nero to live and burn Christians at the stake? Yet the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the Church. May it not be that this is God's way of bringing people back to the Fountain of Justice? Before the flood He permitted people to go on as they pleased, and they became so corrupt he destroyed them as a whole. A little leaven of evil then leavened the whole lump. But now he may permit one nation to purify another of its dross, though the actor meaneth not to do so.

Who will say that there is not much departure from truth and righteousness and justice in these afflicted nations. France has been drifting toward immorality and Communism and its evils. England is a land of sports and even when its army was being defeated in Norway still revelled in its derby. Liberty has gone to seed in democracies. High ideals—the good of the Whole, of others—is swallowed by "personal liberty." While Germany was working night and day, making the planes and tanks which demolished France, French labor was demanding short hours and large pay. Where now is "their more abundant life"? Where is even life itself? They may be forced to make arms to destroy England and her liberty. Here in America (in Indianapolis), about two thousand of us on Memorial Day gather in beautiful Crown Hill Cemetery to drop flowers on the graves of soldiers who died to make and keep us free, and to listen to speeches to that end, while at the same hour at the Motor Speedway across the city **two hundred thousand** people worship at the shrine of Speed and Thrill. This is an index to our pleasure-loving state of mind.

Germany was the hot-bed of modernism which has devastated Christendom as her armies have now laid Europe waste. France has for long drifted toward atheism. England has departed far from the devotion of the Puritans. The low countries and Denmark and Norway have become smug in their religious indifference. In America possibly eight million people out of a hundred and twenty million,

attend religious services once a week, while at the same time **eighty million** attend the un-moral movies.

Democracy is the greatest development of human relations established by man, yet it can, and has, gone to seed. Men turn liberty into license. Individual liberty is everything with them—united liberty is secondary. That is one reason France and England have so far failed in the war. When General Petain, the famed hero of Verdun, where the French for six months kept the Germans at bay in the World War, and finally drove them back with half a million casualties, was waiting for the humiliating terms of Hitler, he sadly told his people why they lost the war. "We will learn our lesson from the lost battle," he said. "Since our victory in 1918 **our sense of enjoyment has predominated over our sense of sacrifice.** We have not exerted enough effort." In other words, they had become lovers of pleasures more than real lovers of liberty. Never were truer words spoken. And they apply to the Church as well as France. Pleasure and indifference have nearly destroyed the Church. Hitler was right when he said the democracies were decadent.

When the Sudeten Germans were told that they would have less liberty under the Reich than under the Czech government, they replied that they knew it but were willing to give up self for the benefit of the whole. A perverted ideal, the personal liberty people say, yet a similar ideal must prevail that our republic may live and that the Kingdom of God may go on. Too many professed Christians push their personal liberties to the point of confusion, strife and division, so that Christendom today is in a turmoil. Too many of them let the pleasures of life choke the word within them. As God uses the wrath of man to praise Him, so now he may be using the ambition of power-mad dictators to bring his professed children back to work and economy and family life and greater devotion to a Common Good. There is really nothing good in these governments of men that is not endorsed in the Kingdom of Christ. Selfishness is the cause of the woes of man, and God sent the Great Unselfish One to take this selfishness out of our hearts. We have rejected Him, and so must suffer. This war may help do the very thing we would not let the Gospel do. A child that will not heed its parent must suffer for it.

And though God may use the dictators to bring the democracies back from license to sane liberty, he will in time punish these tyrants for their utter disregard of oaths and treaties and justice and mercy.

Every man and woman who is not a Christian is partly responsible for this chaotic condition of the world, for he has not lived for the Higher Good. Every man and woman who is living a half-hearted Christian life is encouraging Satan to attack a Church of weaklings. Every one of the millions of backsliders in the world is a stumbling stone to those who would like to live the better life.

The best way for you to help England and France in their re-construction after the war is to become a whole-hearted Christian right now and thus help in the gigantic task of rebuilding the moral forces of the world.

Suppose other countries in Europe are crushed beneath the German super-tank, suppose the colonial empires of France and England pass into the hands of the ruthless dictators, suppose South America falls beneath their intrigue and becomes their allies, suppose even the United States comes under the heel of the dictators (which God forbid) and should be ruled from Berlin or Rome—

still the Church goes on as it has through twenty centuries, for the Word of God is not bound, Christ still will reign, for He established a Kingdom which can not be moved, against which the gates of hell can not prevail, and which will finally break in pieces and consume all these other kingdoms and shall stand forever.

Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant doth remain,
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that can not fail.

And when the kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, and the end of all earthly events will have come, and the earth will have been burned with fervent heat—then, dear reader, you will be glad that you accepted Christ and became a faithful subject of His everlasting Kingdom.

The greatest thing in all the world is to be a faithful Christian.

The happiest life in all the world is that of a whole-hearted disciple.

If you are not a Christian, will you not become one this very day?

Tomorrow may be too late.

—D. A. Sommer.

What Will YOUR Fate Be?

I dreamed that the Great Judgment morning
Had dawned, and the trumpet had blown;
I dreamed that the nations had gathered
To Judgment before the white throne,
From the throne came a bright, shining angel,
And stood on the land and the sea,
And swore with his hand raised to heaven
That Time was no longer to be.

The rich man was there, but his money
Had melted and vanished away;
A pauper he stood at the Judgment
His debts were too heavy to pay.
The great man was there but his greatness,
When death came, was left far behind;
The angel that opened the records,
Not a trace of his greatness could find.

The widow was there and the orphan—
God heard and remembered their cries;
No sorrow in heaven for ever;
God wiped all the tears from their eyes.
The gambler was there and the drunkard
And the man who gave him the drink,
With the people who gave him the license—
Together in hell they did sink.

The moral man, too, came to Judgment,
But his self-righteous rags would not do;
The men who crucified Jesus
Had passed off as moral men, too,
And the souls that had put off salvation:
"Not tonight; I'll get saved by and by;
No time now to think of religion"—
At last, they had found time to die.

And oh, what a weeping and wailing
When the lost were told of their fate;
They cried for the rocks to fall on them,
They prayed—but their prayer was too late!

"BLITZKRIEG"

The glory of France is departed! Only this morning the news venders cry out the tragic fate of a once great nation. Yesterday in the chair occupied in 1918 by Marshal Foch, sat the conqueror Adolf Hitler, listening as his aide-de-camp read to the silent French representatives the terms of surrender. Harsh provisions forbidding the recovery of a vanquished people! A few months ago I personally thought the French forces the greatest armed body of infantry in the world. I felt that with the protection of the Maginot line, that country was well nigh invincible. But the blinding, smashing, rolling thrust of the German mechanized units moved relentlessly forward, and battered the resistance down, until it was a matter of capitulation to force, or total annihilation.

Why is the victor of 22 years ago today resolved into a mere vassal of Nazi dominance? Historians will seek the answer, and analysts of human behavior will delve among the ruins for the solution to this problem, but even as they do, the answer is already apparent and Marshal Petain, the aged leader, has spoken the truth! He said in his radio broadcast to the stricken people that France "had not produced enough children, had not made enough friends, had not been sufficiently armed." Gay Paris with its bright lights attracted the French away from the simple life. Prostitution was rife, the desecration of the marriage ties and supporting of paramours was smiled upon. Children were considered a burden and a curse, since their advent into the world meant a restriction upon the pleasures of those who unwillingly bore them! France was not conquered, but she committed suicide just as this nation is doing—yea, just as the Church of Christ is doing! Race suicide, because pleasure came before responsibility.

Listen to this summary by Lansing Warren, Associated Press correspondent from Bordeaux, France: "Ever since the war too much stress has been placed upon personal material well being and too little on duties and abnegation by the individual for the sake of the nation." Isn't that why religion is likewise tottering "on the brink" today? The churches are filled with "fifth column" composed of those who really are in the employ of Satan, and who are ready to capture the strategic defenses for worldliness; seeking to betray us into the hands of the enemy. Discipline was neglected in France, and today France pays the price, because of her laxity.

The French were satisfied with their conquests of the first World War. They rested upon their laurels and refused to pay any attention to the rearmament of Germany until it was too late! Personal material well being was the thought of one and all, with no emphasis upon the relation of the individual to the body politic. Churches are filled today with those who forget they are only stewards of God. Their time is spent seeking after sensual gratification; they spend their time at the theaters, ball games and places of worldly amusement without ever a thought of the worthwhile life. The money with which God entrusted them is never invested in mission work to make the Kingdom advance, but is carefully and jealously hoarded for personal gain. Today all is

bright, happy and merry!! Will tomorrow find us swept away before the onslaught of the Prince of the Air?

The secret of success is preparation, training, discipline. Every congregation of the church must become an air base for Christ, a training field for service. We need manpower, trained man-power! We need men who will deny themselves, and take up the cross! Every congregation a fort for Jesus under the eldership that cannot be bought or swayed. Then come on with the "blitzkrieg".

—W. Carl Ketcherside.

Has "The Church" Collapsed Like the French Army?

In 1937, Roger Babson, a very prominent man in business and religious circles, said this:

"The so-called church membership figures published annually by the **Christian Herald** and broadcast by the press associations are incorrect. They contain not only the names of millions who have repudiated the church which they joined in their youth, but also millions who are dead and buried physically.

"Protestant church attendance has been falling off for many years. This may not show by recent statistics on church attendance at the morning service; but in many churches attendance at the Sunday service has been kept only by omitting the midweek and evening services, and by closing down in summer time. A record of the number of Protestants entering the churches during a year shows a constant falling off. This decline is taking place despite the fact that our Protestant population is increasing each year.

"Sunday school attendance is also falling off. The Congregational Christian churches, of which I am moderator, have had a net loss of 150,000 Sunday school scholars since 1925. At first I assumed this to be due to a serious drop in the birth rate among us indifferent Protestants; but study shows that the decline is primarily among those of high school age and adults. The young children are still being sent to Sunday school to give fathers a chance to read the Sunday paper.

"I have attempted to ascertain the reason for this collapse of Protestantism. Upon visiting the national headquarters of different denominations, the secretaries dispute my conclusions. When interviewing parents, they blame it on the preachers. The latter in turn blame it on the young people and the schools. The only fact all groups seem agreed upon is that young people are more intelligent and inquiring today—they do not accept as readily what their grandparents did! Yet statistics show that the liberal churches—such as the Unitarian—have even greater trouble in holding their young people than do the fundamentalists. So 'ereed' is not the reason.

"Determined to find the cause, I devoted the month of May, 1937, to visiting twenty prominent Protestant colleges, most of which were started many years ago by ministers and earnest church people. To my great surprise, these colleges were having their troubles also. Attendance at chapel has fallen off tremendously and there is an indifference toward religious instruction. . . . Educational institutions are losing control of their young people. . . .

"Young people insist that for the church to interest them, we laymen must be better men, better employers

and workmen, better parents and neighbors than those who do not go to church. In short, we laymen must take our religion seriously and pay the price if the church is to continue to grow. . . .

"Our churches must cease being only social clubs and we laymen must be known by a stronger character and good works. . . . WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN. THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE MUST BE CHANGED IN ORDER FOR ANY SOCIAL OR OTHER SYSTEM TO SUCCEED."

Read the poem in this paper on "Why the Church Doesn't Convert the World."

Why the Church Doesn't Convert the World

The Church and the World walked far apart

On the changing shores of time;
The World was singing a giddy song,
And the Church a hymn sublime.
"Come, give me your hand," said the merry World,
"And walk with me this way."
But the good Church hid her snowy hands,
And solemnly answered "Nay;
I will not give you my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you.
Your way is the way that leads to death,
Your words are all untrue."

"Nay, walk with me but a little space,"

Said the World, with a kindly air;
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there;
Your path is thorny and rough and rude,
But mine is broad and plain;
My way is paved with flowers and dews,
And yours with tears and pain.
The sky to me is always blue,
No want, no toil I know;
The sky above you is always dark,
Your lot is a lot of woe;
There's room enough for you and me
To travel side by side."

Half shyly the Church approached the World,
And gave him her hand of snow;
And the old World grasped it and walked along,
Saying in accents low:

"Your dress is too simple to suit my taste;
I will give you pearls to wear,
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The Church looked down at her plain white robes,
And then at the dazzling World,
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip
With a smile contemptuous curled.

"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"
Said the Church, with a smile of grace;
Then her pure, white garments drifted away
And the World gave in their place
Beautiful satins and shining silks,
Roses and gems and costly pearls;
While over her forehead her bright hair fell,
Crisped in a thousand curls.

"Your house is too plain," said the proud old World,
 "I'll build you one like mine;
 Carpets of brussels and curtains of lace
 And furniture ever so fine."
 So he built her a costly and beautiful house,
 Most splendid it was to behold;
 Her sons and her beautiful daughters dwelt there,
 Gleaming in purple and gold;
 Rich fairs and shows in the halls were held,
 And the World and his children were there.
 Laughter and music and feasts were heard
 In the place that was meant for prayer.
 There were cushioned pews for the rich and the gay
 To sit in their pomp and pride;
 But the poor, who were clad in shabby array,
 Sat meekly down outside.

"You give too much to the poor," said the World,
 "Far more than you ought to do;
 If they are in need of shelter and food,
 Why need it trouble you?
 Go, take your money and buy rich robes,
 Buy autos and radios fine;
 Buy pearls and jewels and dainty food;
 Buy the rarest and costliest wines.
 My children they dote on all these things,
 And if you their love would win,
 You must do as they do, and walk in the ways
 That they are walking in."

Then the Church held fast the strings of her purse
 And modestly lowered her head
 And simpered: "Without doubt you are right, sir,
 Henceforth I will do as you've said."
 So the poor were turned from her door in scorn,
 And she heard not the orphan's cry;
 But she drew her beautiful robes aside,
 As the widows went weeping by.
 Then the sons of the World and the sons of the Church
 Walked closely hand and heart;
 And only the Master, who knoweth all,
 Could tell the two apart.

Then the Church sat down at her ease and said:
 "I am rich and my goods increase;
 I have need of nothing, or ought to do
 But to laugh and dance and feast."
 Thy sly World heard, and he laughed in his sleeve,
 And mocking said, aside:
 "The Church is fallen, the beautiful Church,
 And her shame is her boast and pride."

The angel drew near to the mercy-seat,
 And whispered in sighs her name;
 Then the loud anthems of rapture were hushed,
 And heads were covered with shame.
 And a voice was heard at last by the Church,
 From Him who sat on the throne:
 "I know thy works, and how thou hast said,
 'I am rich;' and hast not known
 That thou art naked and poor and blind,
 And wretched before my face;
 Therefore I from my presence cast thee out,
 And blot thy name from its place."

Oh lerring Church, from the tempter's side flee;
 Put on thy garments of white;
 With meekness and truth, with faith, hope and love,
 Walk again in the fullness of light.
 —Author Unknown.

Are You Seeking Truth in Religion?

Dear Truth Seeker:

Since you were very earnest in the conversation that we had the other day and since conditions were such that we didn't get to finish our friendly chat, I decided that I would sit down and explain more thoroughly my purpose in visiting your village. In our talk the other day I could very easily see that you were after the Truth in religious matters. Since you wouldn't take my word, but wanted scripture for the principles that I was setting forth to you, I could easily determine that truly you are becoming discouraged with the ideas of mankind and you are seeking a "thus saith the Lord" for Christian worship.

You remember the other day when I met you for the first time I told you that I was looking prospects over for a mission effort in your community. Now it is the desire of every Christian to see the cause of Christ prosper. And it is my idea that we may some day set forth the teaching of the Church of Christ in your community. Since you informed me that you knew nothing of the doctrine of the Church of Christ, I shall set forth its teaching as briefly as possible. I am greatly pleased that you desire the truth and not merely man's idea, so I feel that my time shall not be wasted.

First, we know that every church has its creed. The Church of Christ is no exception. The author of our creed was not finite man however—the Holy Spirit was the originator of our belief. Our creed is the gospel of Jesus Christ. You remember the other day you showed me the creed of the church where you hold membership, and I informed you of some points where it contradicted the Bible? Printed on the binding of our creed you will find the words "Holy Bible." Human creeds change, but our creed has remained changeless through the ages. The creed of the Church of Christ supplies man's every need for Christian work and worship. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3.)

You see when a man writes his own creed he fails to give the gospel its just due of respect, or else he doesn't believe all of its teaching on every subject. If he only will take the teaching of the gospel he could find no place for his creed and it would find its place in the rubbish heap. We believe that our creed is just as applicable now as it was in apostolic days. If Christ had wanted the worship of his church (Mat. 16:18) to change with modern times, there would be no reason why he shouldn't have made provisions for such a change. But because we are not more intelligent than people were at that time, we must still build from our Blue Print as they did. Whatever it was that early Christians did, we must do. The way they conducted their Church worship is exactly the way modern Christians should conduct theirs. We believe in old time religion if it can be traced back to the day of Pentecost A. D. 33. (Acts 2.)

I want to ask you, Mr. Truth Seeker, is this fair? Is it right to carry on our worship as the early church did? If it is, we will be sinning in God's sight if we don't. If it isn't right to worship as they did, then God will

be responsible for lost souls because he hasn't given us further instructions, and we are in the dark through no fault of our own. If we do **EXACTLY** as they did, we will have to go to the Bible, and the Bible alone, to see how they worship. In no other book can we find out how early disciples worshipped God. Those things were written for our learning that we might know how to live an acceptable life in the sight of God. Now if this is true, we must become a member of the family of God exactly as the early Christians did. If they had to be voted in, we have to be. If they had to be sprinkled, we have to be. If they had to go to the mourner's bench, we have to. But these consist of man's ways. The only way for us to definitely decide is for us to go to our creed. Let us read through the book of Acts very carefully and notice how early Christians were converted.

Now, I won't have time or paper to notice every individual case, but since I know that you are sufficiently interested to read for yourself, I will merely give you the scripture for each conversion. Notice carefully how these became members of the body of Jesus Christ. The Pentecostians, Acts 2:38-41. The Samaritans, Acts 8:5, 12. The eunuch, Acts 8:27, 39. Saul, Acts 9:19; 22:16. Household of Cornelius, Acts 10:47, 48. The Philipian jailer, Acts 16:33. You can easily see, then, that Bible conversion comes from wholehearted belief, repentance and baptism. If that was true, then should it not be true today? Now that a person is a member of the body of Christ, our creed gives further instructions for his continual service to God. Again let me stress that we couldn't be wrong if we worship exactly as the early Christians did.

Our creed states that they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayer. (Acts 2:42.) The early Christians prayed in their assembly. The early disciples edified one another. (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:25.) They observed the Lord's supper every first day of the week. (1 Cor. 11:23, 30; Acts 20:7.) They took up collection at that time. (1 Cor. 16:2.) They also sang in their worship to God. (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19.) Now when they sang we believe their song service was acceptable to God. If we carry out our worship as they did, our worship will be acceptable also. If Apostle Peter played on an instrument when the disciples sang a hymn before they went to the Mount of Olives (Mt. 26:30), then of course we must do likewise in our worship. If they used the God-made instrument consisting of their vocal cords, then in order for our song service to be acceptable, we also must use that instrument. In every point, dear Truth Seeker, let us go to our creed and see how the early Church carried on its worship, then let us pattern after it, because it takes the same acts to constitute Christian worship today as it did at that time.

I am indeed sorry that space will not provide me opportunity to more thoroughly enlighten you on the practice of the Church of Christ. There is one way that you can definitely find out how we stand on every subject of a religious nature. Simply open up the pages of a New Testament and start studying the acts of Christian worship. When by **careful** study you see the picture of the New Testament Church, that will be the picture you will see, if we are successful in setting up the New Testament worship in your community.

Today the sun looks exactly as it did nineteen hundred years ago, because it is still the original sun. Today the Church of Christ looks exactly as it did nineteen hundred years ago, as it is still the original. Time is too short and eternity is too long for us to haphazardly serve our Lord and Master. Christ died for His Church. I am prayerfully hoping, dear Truth Seeker, that you may take advantage of his death. Since I am sure that you will seriously consider the references I have given you (and I know you to be fair with yourself), I will expect to come again into your village soon, that we may together set up the institution of our Great Counsellor.

Your fellow seeker for the Truth,

—Harold Shasteen.

Nip Evil in the Bud

The time to kill weeds is when they are small. The time to stop a cold is when it first starts. The time to train a child is when he is young. The time to destroy the "fifth column" in the U. S. is before it gets started. The time to save the church from evil is when it is small. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Many of the woes of the world and the Church come from a neglect of this vital principle.

Recently when Roosevelt put two Republicans in his cabinet, Frederick Kershner, dean of the Bible College in Butler University and one of the prominent leaders in the Christian Church, was asked his opinion of the president's move. He replied:

"I have the utmost confidence in both Col. Knox and Mr. Stimson, especially the latter, whom I consider one of the greatest of American statesmen. If his advice had been followed when he was secretary of state, I believe there would be no war today. He would have kept Japan out of Manchuria, but could not get the cooperation of Great Britain. Had this been done, Italy would have been kept out of Abyssinia, Hitler out of Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc. After Manchuria, the aggressive nations found out what they could get away with."

Exactly so. And that is the way it is with evil in religion. Departures from God's Word must be stopped when they are little. The religious movement of which Bro. Kershner is a leader once held to the simplicity in Christ, but some demanded an organ for their singing, and a society for the work of their church. The introduction of these innovations on God's Word caused a great furor, for the old brethren said, "If you open the flood gate, where will you stop?" In fact, there has been no stopping place, for the "progressive" brethren (the Christian Church) have added shows and suppers to raise money (some of them disgraceful), all sorts of societies, modernism, the one-man preacher-pastor system, and many other unscriptural practices. The Christian Church is now only a denomination among the denominations, and all because they did not follow the great principle expressed here by Dr. Kershner of destroying evil when it is little and can be handled. The true Church of Christ is constantly on the alert against all departures from the simplicity in Christ. Paul himself said: "Watch, and remember that by the space of three years, I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." (Acts 20.)

The "Kingdom Which Cannot Be Moved"

Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build **my** Church." (Matt. 16:18) and Paul speaks of the "churches (congregations) of Christ." (Rom. 16:16). This institution is also called "Church of God" (1 Cor. 1:2); "Church of the Firstborn" (Heb. 12:23). The people who compose this church are called Christians and disciples (Acts 11:26), saints (1 Cor. 1:2), brethren (1 Cor. 1:2). All names not found in the Scriptures are human and cause divisions, hence they should not be worn by Christians.

The teachings of Christ and His inspired apostles as found in the New Testament constitute its creed, or belief. To mix our own notions and the traditions of men with the teachings of Christ is to render our worship vain, for God says through Christ, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9.) The **Old** Testament is inspired and leads up to Christ.

How does one get into this Kingdom? "Except a man be **born** of water and of the Spirit he cannot **enter into** the kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) "Having been **begotten** again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through **the word of God** which liveth and abideth." (1 Pet. 1:23, R. V.) To be begotten by the word of God, and to be born, or begotten, by the Spirit, are the same. All commentators of any note say that to be born of water refers to baptism. When we permit the word of God which comes by the Spirit of God to sink into our hearts producing faith and repentance, we have been begotten again, but our birth is not yet complete. When we have gone on in our obedience and repented and been baptized, then it is that our birth is completed and we have been born of water and the Spirit, and have come **into** the kingdom, or Church of God. Paul says, "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized **into** Christ Jesus were baptized into his death" (Rom. 6:3); and, again, "For as many of you as have been baptized **into** Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27.) These scriptures teach us that baptism, preceded by faith and repentance, is the act which brings us **into** Christ. But what is baptism? Bible baptism requires "**much water**" (John 3:23); going "**down into the water**," (Acts 8:38); **burial**, (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12); coming "**up out of the water**" (Acts 8:30). Jesus says that we must be born of water. Can a babe be born of a mother smaller than itself? Neither can we be born of a body of water smaller than ourselves. We come out of the water into the spiritual world very much as we come into the natural world.

Jesus Christ is absolute King and the New Testament is His law book. The Old Testament is inspired of God, but is not a book of authority for Christians. Christ has ordained that elders, called also overseers, bishops, look after the local congregations and feed it. (1 Tim. 3:17; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28), and that deacons be servants of the churches (Acts 6; 1 Tim. 3:8-10). Evangelists are to go from place to place preaching the gospel. The churches of the New Testament were not under the councils, associations, synods, general assemblies and conferences of uninspired men, but under the teaching of the inspired apostles. The church government was congregational. The pastor system in which one man rules and teaches the congregation instead of the elders, was unknown to the New Testament.

The work of Christ's Church consists of helping its own poor and sick, in doing good unto all men, and in advancing the gospel. The aid work of the New Testament Church was done as individual Christians (Acts 9:36-42; Gal. 6:10), and as congregations (Acts 11:27-30). The gospel was preached in two ways—all true Christians preached the gospel in private, trying to save others besides themselves (Acts 8:4), and evangelists publicly proclaimed the gospel, living on the voluntary contributions of the brethren and churches (1 Cor. 9:14; Phil. 4:14-16). The early Christians had no aid societies to do the work of helping the poor and sick, which **every** Christian should be interested in; they did not have any Endeavor societies to train young people, for parents were to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and when they became Christians they came under the watchful care of the elders of the congregations as well as their parents; they had no missionary societies to preach the gospel, for **every** Christian was to do all he could for the spread of the gospel in public or private. They had no Bible Colleges nor orphan homes. "In their Church capacity alone they moved," says a great religious teacher. These societies are organizations different from the Church, though they are attached to it, for they have different laws, treasuries, officers, etc. Those who work in these societies go contrary to that scripture which says, "Unto him [God] be glory **in the church**." (Eph. 3:21.)

The early Christians continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching, and fellowship, in the "breaking of bread and the prayers," they were to teach and admonish "one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God." (Acts 2:42; Col. 3:17.) They had no organs, pianos, fiddles, horns, etc., to make music in their worship, for all these make a kind of music which God has not commanded, and hence such music is an addition to God's Word. "If any man shall add unto these things [the Scriptures] God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:18.)

Paul commanded Christians to **give**, upon the first day of the week, freely and liberally. (1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8:9.) They did not raise money by shows, entertainments, festivals, box suppers, rafflings, etc., and a hundred other devices used by many so-called Christian people.

Do you, dear reader, belong to the Kingdom Christ established, which is opposed to all the doctrines and traditions of men, and is trying to do **all that God commands—nothing more, nothing less—in the way which He commands?** Look for it in your community, and if you can not find it write to the publisher of this paper. It is deviation from God's word which has produced the division in Christendom. To say the least of it, **there is great danger** in belonging to a church which is not mentioned in the Bible and which has corrupted the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:3; 2 John 10, 11.) **Will you, dear friend, follow a way of DANGER rather than the way of SAFETY in a matter of eternity?**

Some Church News

Because the June issue was published late and the July issue is being published early (to permit the editor to hold a protracted meeting), there are fewer reports in this number.

The May issue of the M. C. soared above all my expectations. I eagerly await the rumbling from the war torn (religiously) southland.—Bill Hensley.

Our older readers have read before the poem on the Church and the World, but for the benefit of the young people and our hundreds of new subscribers, we publish it again.

New York City.—The May issue on the Clergy was a masterpiece, and too good to drop after all your trouble. Again put it in tract form and others will help bear the burden. If possible send me 25 copies.—S. O. Vandersloot. (Bro. Carl Ketcherside asked me, "Is not that the most important thing you ever put out?" We believe it contains much valuable information which ought to be read by EVERY member of the Church. It will help fortify them against the present apostasy. Will you put it in those homes? They are paid for, and we shall send you as many copies as you can use, for the postage.—Publisher.)

What the Devil Wants You to Do

Every member of the Church should read the exhortations in this issue. Every non-member in your community should read them, too. The Devil wants you to do NOTHING. Why not "feel" him? Send a stamp, or stamps, or money at our risk, for extra copies and spread those needed warnings. If your community, or church, needs such literature, yet you have no funds, let us know how many copies you can use, and we will see what we can do. But do it NOW. France took her ease and would not work, as General Potain said, and she has been trampled into the dust. The same is true of many churches.

Bicknell, Ind.—Our meeting closed here June 6 with a full house. We had visiting brethren from twenty-four different congregations during the meeting. Interest was good throughout the meeting. Full house almost every night. Here there were eleven additions—one from Christian Church, ten by baptism, and we feel that the meeting was a very profitable and successful meeting in every way. The youngsters also enjoyed a two weeks' Bible Study which was a great help to them. We feel very grateful to Bro. Carl Ketcherside for the many good lessons he left with us, and will always remember this meeting as one of the best its ever been my privilege to attend.—A Member.

Red Cloud, Neb.—We are progressing nicely here. Mr. Polson took his stand with the Church last Lord's day. Hopes are high.—Homer Matson. (Bro. and Sister Polson both came from Denmark and have many relatives there. About two months ago I baptized her in a meeting at Red Cloud, and we rejoice now that her husband has come out, too. If it is possible under war-torn conditions we hope they get in touch with their people in Denmark, and try to show them the simplicity in Christ. We hope ALL of our readers who come from foreign countries and have friends there with whom they correspond, will write out the simplicity in Christ, giving scriptures, and thus try to scatter the Word.—Pub.)

The Bible Banner, in the South, is being financed by members of the church who are business men, to help stay some of the digressions among churches. The Apostolic Times says: "A certain brother, who is willing to use his means to preach the gospel, instead of using them to corrupt a college by putting them into an endowment, has suggested that he will furnish the Bible Banner a plant of its own, and thus enable it, as Bro. Wallace suggests, to be issued twice a month and to carry news reports." The Macedonian Call has had a very hard struggle to keep going in its fight against digression, but is growing bigger and stronger all the time. We do not ask for money to buy buildings (as colleges do) or presses, folders, engine, etc., but we do hope that more brothers and sisters who have means will help us send out free literature. We should have twelve pages all the time. You then have no money tied up in material, building and presses, etc., for in a very few weeks all your money has gone forth on its mission of enlightenment and love. Why not, at least, remember this missionary work in your will? But it will give you greater joy if you can see it work while you live.

Riverside, Calif.—I believe the May issue of the M. C. is as good as I have ever seen. We would like to have extra copies. Bro. Turner's meeting proved to be very beneficial to our congregation. Five were added. Wilbur Storm conducts a

class in song practice each Tuesday night at 11th and Lemon St. in Riverside, and on Friday nights I have charge of a development class for men who wish to better equip themselves for taking public part in the worship. Occasionally we hear of someone who has been in Southern California but did not know where to find a faithful church, so please put the following in the M. C.: When in Southern California worship at Church of Christ, West Riverside, one block south of U. S. No. 60.—Earl Ficus.

Secor, Ill.—Back from enjoyable work in Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. Late in July or early August I go to St. Francis, Kansas. I have extra time for the Lord's work.—R. O. Webb.

Topoka, Kans.—I was with the Greenmound congregation near Beloit, Kansas, from May 26 to June 2nd. The time was spent in Bible drill and study of the New Testament. There was a hearty cooperation by all and great interest manifested. They expressed themselves as deeply interested and want me to return for a longer period of study. This church is growing and will soon be a strong congregation in the work.—J. A. Freed, 425 Leland St.

Walnut Bottom, Penna.—I have been busy in Pennsylvania since May 12. Prior to the meeting in Shippenburg, I was assisted in doing personal contact work by Bro. Clyde Moore. This is a very hard field to work the Gospel as a number of evangelists will readily admit. People were hard to get out but the audience gradually built up until at present things look encouraging. The record of no baptisms for a period of years was broken when it was our happy privilege to immerse a woman with denominational affiliations. Others here have made it known that they understand their duty, so we have hopes of others accepting the Gospel. Bro. Paul Mackey of Howard, Pennsylvania, is now assisting with the meeting. It would be encouraging for the brethren here if someone who desired secular work would settle in this locality with the view of assisting in the work of the church. If interested in this plea, address C. J. Bekdel, Walnut Bottom, Pennsylvania. I go from here to Bridgeport, Conn., from there to Pottstown, Pa., then to Altoona before leaving the state. "Blessed be the tie that binds."—Harold Shasteen.

Central Station, W. Va., June 19, 1940.—We were very much impressed by the "Forgotten Scripture" issue of the M. C. We feel sure that no honest thinking person could consider it honestly, prayerfully, without being benefitted. Without seeing that the crying need of the religious world today is to get back to God's Word and forsake the ways of man. We were impressed with the principles it set forth, not because they were something new but because they were old, at least nineteen hundred years, and yet so evidently recorded with a knowledge that present day conditions would some day exist. We are sure we but voice the feelings of the congregation here when we say that we are back of the principles as set forth in this issue. Not as some people charge, because we want to be led by a paper, but because we want to be led by God's Word, which principles are so evidently set forth in this issue. The Congregation here at Long Run although small in number is willing to do what little we can in spreading these principles. We recognize the need of tightening our lines of defense to meet the needs of the day so that they will not be shattered by an enemy "blitzkrieg". We are willing to help what little we can in establishing objectives in the communities where the Cause has not been established. We are willing to help support a campaign in some isolated community where there are a few living who wish to be loyal to the Book, and who would be willing to help what they could but who are unable to bear the full load of an effort to establish the Church near their home. If anyone reading this find yourself in the condition we have described, we would be glad to hear from you. Write to us and tell us of your situation and it may be that we will be able to help you in some way. We would, also, be pleased to hear from any of our sister congregations in West Virginia who might be willing to co-operate with us in this effort. Bro. Sommer will be with us beginning August the eighteenth, the Lord willing, to conduct a series of meetings. While here he will lecture on his visit to Bible lands and display the clay tablets taken from the excavations on the sites of old Bible cities. Write for further details. Address correspondence to Bro. Hurst, Walter J. Williamson, Elder, Vernon W. Rurst, Evangelist.